

White Township Supervisors  
950 Indian Springs Road  
Indiana, PA 15701

Dear White township Supervisors,

During your three proposals to timber White's Woods, in 1995, 2008, and currently, your constituency overwhelmingly responded through petitions and surveys that they want White's Woods to be left alone, in its natural state. In fact, a survey recently posted on Change.org received 8000 signatures, of which 1,240 are from Western Pennsylvania. Six hundred live in the township, the borough or at IUP. Their unanimous conclusion was, "They do not want White's Woods to be timbered or damaged by heavy equipment." Additionally, a survey posted through Survey Monkey received 229 respondents with "98% or higher wanting the park to be left in its natural state, that it affords a healthier lifestyle, provides beauty and attracts wildlife to the area. They believe it exists for recreation, conservation, and historical preservation."

Four IUP scientists, several foresters, ecologists, naturalists, a stormwater specialist, and an arborist all agree that your Millstone plan to timber the woods will either severely damage or destroy this precious township gem. A forester of 30 years, Mike Wolf, presented proof to you that:

1. The woods are in their prime and healthy, not diseased.
2. The soil is excellent—not compact as is evidenced by robust tree growth.
3. The use of a mulching machine to till the soil and chop and bury invasive plants will actually compact the soil, destroy many tree roots, and further propagate the invasive plants.
4. Trees do not need direct sunlight to grow. There is no need to thin trees.
5. Look at the soil and notice what is growing currently. If sunlight is allowed to penetrate through the thinned trees, invasive plants will increase substantially.
6. Because the huge deer herd has eaten all the tree buds and seedlings, there can be no regeneration. Any timbering will leave a permanent scar.
7. All trees are the same age. Added sunlight through thinning will not enable smaller, skinnier trees to grow bigger.

White's Woods is very unique and precious to this area. It provides wonderful experiences in nature to all ages. And because of the pandemic, these woods have never been so crowded. Each season provides new opportunities for a variety of activities unique only to this park. It has been and is well used and loved by so many residents and visitors. And it gives back so much to Indiana by absorbing 207,540 gallons of stormwater per year as well as filtering and cleaning that water. The trees clean our air and have absorbed and stored 27,688 tons of carbon while also removing particulates from the air. It increases property values, lowers summer air temperatures, improves both physical and mental health, and provides wildlife habitat. If all or part of these woods are gone, the township will be responsible for the costs incurred from the loss of timbered trees. And now there is a new program to be started in this area within the next year, that will pay a substantial income, through the purchase of voluntary credits to owners of wooded areas, to simply leave these woods alone.

Supervisors, please do not timber these woods. Your township residents don't want it. The scientific evidence clearly states that your plan will destroy, not help, White's Woods. And your township residents have shown through overwhelming response how much they value these woods and want them left alone! And in the future, through carbon sequestration programs on the voluntary market, the township can receive a substantial yearly income. Hear your residents' pleas to leave these woods alone!

Sincerely,

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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