

Lebanon County Commissioners Michael Kuhn, Jo Ellen Litz, Robert Phillips Room 207, Municipal Building 400 South 8th Street Lebanon, PA 17042-6794

## Dear Commissioners,

I want to reach out to you prior to the fall 2023 election to let you know I am unhappy with the current forest management plan for the Clarence Schock Park at Governor Dick. Cutting trees from large parts of the park and the subsequent use of herbicides and deer fencing of the areas cut do not sustain the forest that was so important to the Schocks. The forest is about much more than the trees.

Sustainable forest management recognizes that forests play a crucial role in mitigating climate change, conserving biodiversity, and providing various ecosystem services. By adopting sustainable practices, forest managers can strike a balance between these ecological, economic, and social dimensions, safeguarding forests for future generations while deriving benefits from them in a responsible manner.

You as commissioners have the power to make a positive change. I urge you to engage an independent authority who considers the forest in its entirety rather than as timber alone, and thus can propose more sustainable ways of managing this park.

Sincerely,