

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

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June 20, 2023

New Jersey Sierra Club
145 West Hanover Street
Trenton, NJ 08618

RE: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

To Whom This May Concern:

We have recently been made aware that the New Jersey Sierra Club has approved a resolution rescinding the Chapter's support for redesignation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to a National Park and Preserve. We understand from the statement that "members are committed to finding ways to further protect the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and surrounding areas while having indigenous and community voices at the forefront. The Chapter will establish a committee to formalize this work".

We are pleased that the New Jersey Sierra Club has recognized the efforts of the Delaware Water Gap Defense Fund, a "No National Park" organization, the municipal representatives and residents of Sandyston Township, our legislators, surrounding municipal and county governments and school boards in Sussex County, Warren County and Pennsylvania and organizations who have voiced their strong opposition to this redesignation. As presented, the proposal by the Sierra Club lacked information important to Sandyston Township, for example the environmental and economic impact to our community; implementation of funding for the National Park, as well as fee structure, parking, river access and amenities offered and location of collection stations; the impact to our recreation area and the loss of activities we currently enjoy; the effect on our state, county and municipal roads and how funding will be used for their maintenance and improvement; the possible expansion of the park or plans to acquire additional land and if and when Eminent Domain will be considered or used; and the absolute negative impact to our volunteer fire and EMS services and more.

As the elected representatives for the residents of Sandyston Township, we are well versed in the needs of our community. Therefore, we request a meeting with representatives of the New Jersey Sierra Club so we may engage in meaningful conversations regarding what is best for our residents and municipality. We question how the New Jersey Sierra Club will formulate what they deem is important to the residents of Sandyston Township and communities located in and surrounding the Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area without specifically talking to the elected officials who represent them? Exactly what is the New Jersey Sierra Club looking to protect the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area from, what data will be used to formulate these areas of concern and who will be implementing and administering these protections? Who will benefit from these protections and will the use of Eminent Domain be considered? How will the New Jersey Sierra Club consider the inevitable negative impact to our volunteer fire and EMS organizations and the services they provide?

New Jersey Sierra Club

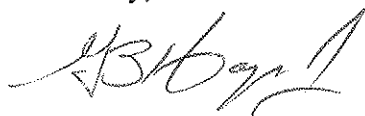
June 20, 2023

Page 2

We also request a copy of the Resolution which was approved by the New Jersey Sierra Club rescinding their support for the redesignation to a National Park and Preserve.

We look forward to your response to our request for a meeting with representatives of the New Jersey Sierra Club so we may engage in a meaningful discussion on this matter, giving us the opportunity to listen to your thoughts and ideas and provide us the long, overdue opportunity to communicate what is best for the residents of Sandyston Township.

Sincerely,



George B. Harper, Jr.
Mayor



Kamala M. Hull
Deputy Mayor



Ronald E. Green
Committeeman

GBH:afl

cc: Delaware Water Gap Defense Fund
Pennsylvania Sierra Club, PO Box 606, Harrisburg, PA 17108
Congressman Josh Gottheimer
Congressman Tom Kean
Senator Steven Oroho, Assemblyman Parker Space, Assemblyman Hal Wirths
Sussex County Board of County Commissioners
Sussex County Municipalities