

Proponent statement for Daniel Alan Dickerhoof

Chair Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB 288.

“We have Eminent Domain” – That’s what the Assistant Director of the Stark Parks told my Dad, while sitting at our kitchen table.

My Dad was not a lawyer, or even college graduate. He worked 40-50 hrs a week as a machinist, then went home to work another 40-50 hrs farming to pay for the farm, taxes, and provide for his family.

He knew what they meant. If he didn’t do what they wanted – “you’ll take it anyway”

Some park districts tout the fact that they don’t use eminent domain to the public, but in private, they use that fear to bully landowners into submission. The parks know that most people fear eminent domain. Do we really need to acquire more trails for a few people? At what cost?