

My name is Mike Cameron.

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly and the members of the House State and Local Government Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for House Bill 476.

I believe that eminent domain is wrong for recreational use.

As you can see by the pictures I have submitted through the past several decades we integrated that land into part of the farm. The trail route would bisect our 158 acres in half from east to west. The trail would be about 100 yards from our house and barn.

The public trail would interfere with our free range pastures and farming land we have set up for our cows and our crops. This will also interfere with any hunting for deer, raccoon, turkey or pheasant on our property of which happens on a seasonal basis.

They are suing us for an easement. That in fact will mean we will pay property taxes and still be liable for anything that may happen on the trail. We will need to move large machinery over the trail and we were told we would be liable for any damage or repairs.

We have integrated this land to our farm when the railway abandoned the property. In the agreement with the railway the property would go back to the original owners. That did not happen. My grandfather had to go to court to buy this property back.

When the railway went through everyone at that time thought it would be permanent. We all know that is a thing of the past. No one knows what will happen to this bike trail in the future.

When you are raising large animals such as ours and a bull with a herd of female cows this is a huge liability problem. We have had many conversations with farmers who own property on the bike trail. They have told us of a daily problems of trespassing on and in their pastures and barns. Again this is a liability issue.

If you could help us as a striving farm. Please do. We need your help right now. Thank you for your consideration.

Michael and Barbara Cameron