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I am a lifetime resident of Ohio that grew up on the 126-acre family farm just North of Minerva, Ohio called Lachaven Farm for 47 years. My parents worked hard at their day jobs to then come home to begin working on the farm with beef cattle, pigs, horses and the crops necessary to feed those animals. My sister and I joined in those efforts. We have enjoyed privacy and the opportunity for friends and family to enjoy the nature and all things the farm had to offer. The farm has passed from our parents to my sister and I whom will pass it on to our children.

A set of train tracks split our property in half until trains stopped running and the tracks were removed. Then enter the Stark Park systems who obtained the rights to the old rail-road bed (Nickle Plate Trail). Stark Parks put in applications with Army Corp of Engineers for building a bridge by Minerva High School that used our property as part of **another** access point to the old rail bed approximately 2 miles away. We never gave permission to use our property or were asked about our property. The \$500,000 application was approved by the Corp. How can the park say they have rights to my property when they do not? There are even maps showing my property to be used. When attending these meetings there are mistruths about so many things being said. I'm very skeptical with the park director or the board real intentions.

Stark Parks is directed by the probate court who appoints the director and board for the parks. I feel that true representation of impacted property is not possible. Our voices can only be heard by taking off work in the afternoon to attend park meetings. We also voice our concerns by voting against the park funding. The park says it will not use eminent domain but won't give up the ability to do so. Should an agency that doesn't have representation of the taxpayer be allowed to use eminent domain for a park trail?

I like the Stark Park system and my family enjoys some of the park systems. However, I do not believe that taxpayer monies need wasted for a random trail in the country. We aren't talking a nature preserve or wilderness center. People are walking down an old railroad bed a few miles from a small village. The area is farmland. This isn't a trail outside of Akron/Hudson, Cleveland or a nature preserve that draws people from large communities. People in our area can walk around nature in their own yards.

I'm also concerned for the security of our property. The trail dead ends right our farmhouse. We've had people disregard the no trespassing signs to walk their dogs, ride horse or poach

animals. People just stand about 80 yards away and stare at our house and watch what we are doing. Our house and outbuildings are a half mile off the road. How can we be assured the park trail won't be used for criminal activity? My 87-year-old father still lives there by himself.

In summary, Stark Parks may list good intentions but I disagree with their approach on misleading people, not being directly responsible to the taxpayer, having eminent domain capability, falsely submit land claims, the board being oblivious to the activities of the park director and the wasteful spending on unnecessary land.

I ask that you help resolve the listed issue by putting controls and direct accountability of the park system leadership to the people directly impacted by the parks actions.

Sincerely,

Steve Lacher