

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I am submitting this written testimony on behalf of The Delaware State Park. We are a volunteer group in the park and have seen drastic attendance in the park since 2020. The visitors are utilizing all areas of the park including the hiking trails, the beach area, the marina and the campground. The park's importance to the local community is evident by the day use and campground attendance. Since 2020 and covid, the park has become a place where families can enjoy the natural environment as well as the various areas of the park due to improvements over the years. The dog parks and campground pickleball are used daily during the height of camping season. The marina has been updated and the boaters have commented on the relaxing atmosphere it provides. Campsites are being reserved throughout the entire week the past few years versus only weekends. The park has become an integral part of my personal life as it provides stress relief, exercise via hiking trails, and improves my overall mental health. The relationships I have developed in this park have become like family. The park is a hidden gem that has become extremely popular and funding for the park is imperative to continue providing an environment that remains safe, well staffed and well maintained.