

House Bill 63 is important as the first line of defense in protecting a landowner from the use of eminent domain in the taking of private land for recreational use. Eminent domain is currently being used as an “attempted take-over” by the Mill Creek MetroParks Board to force landowners to permit cyclists, hikers, (or anyone who chooses) to enter their property. How can that be permitted? How can that be legal? What protects the landowner’s rights?

As a landowner myself, I am told that my husband, and myself, are responsible for keeping trespassers off our property. We are told to post NO TRESSPASSING and NO HUNTING signs (at our expense) if we do not want hikers, hunters (or any other person) on our property for their own “recreational reasons.”

If eminent domain is allowed to be used to take land for a “recreational bike trail” where does it end? Eminent domain was designed for projects that benefit a large number of the population for safety and health reasons, such as a hospital or highway. Using eminent domain for “recreational use” weakens the value and purpose of eminent domain.