

Chair Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for HB 63.

Let me give you a visual of the home my husband and I bought more than 20 years ago. We have a little log cabin that is located far off of Calla Road. As you drive up to our home you pass through a canopy of trees that opens up to a big beautiful yard with a large pond. It is quite, peaceful, and secluded. As a matter of fact not everyone is aware that there is even a house there because we are so secluded. One of my favorite things to do is sit on my front porch overlooking that open field and the pond with my morning coffee and watch the wildlife. This is just one of the things that makes our home our sanctuary.

If Millcreek Park is allowed to eminent domain our property we will be surrounded by an unwanted bike path. Our quiet serene surroundings will no longer exist, my husband and I will no longer have our privacy because at anytime of the day there could be some stranger on our property. Not only do we lose our privacy but we are more susceptible to trespassers venturing off the bike path onto our property and easy access off the path to my home being broken into. This bike path will not be patrolled at night and being situated far from the road with no neighbors close by, and now a bike path accessing our property this will make us an easy target for a home invasion or other criminal activities.

Another consideration, is how this path will decrease our property value. Is it fair that all the hard work my husband and I have invested in our property over the past 20 years is just lost because the park wants to eminent domain property for a bike path.

Also the park wants to eminent domain a portion of our driveway. Near this portion there is a pond and several bee hives. The park wants to cross our driveway creating an intersection. This will be burdensome because we will have to watch and wait every time we want to use our own driveway on our own property. With this crossing there is nothing to prevent people from leaving the path and using our driveway which leads to our secluded house. Our mailbox is just feet away from this portion of the proposed path and we fear our mail will be compromised by people loitering.

The idea that the park could take our property, our sanctuary, risk our safety, and decrease the value of our home for the pleasure of a few is just not right now is it fair. This is our home, it's what we've been working for all these years, please don't allow this to happen. Please vote in favor of HB 63 and save our land.

Thank you

Matt and Diana O'Brien