

Chair Hillyer, Vice-Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 63.

This land has been a huge part of my life for 50 years. Not just for enjoying my privacy and memories, but also for keeping my business afloat by using the slag and dirt, as well as the trees to heat my home, and to mill when needed. The bike trail is trying to take an easement on my property, and leaving me to pay the taxes and higher insurance while they use the property and I cannot. In the lawsuit they said they were going to take a small portion of this property, however they are actually taking 93% of it.

The bike trail right of way will be 26 feet from my home. I will have to look at a fence instead of the beautiful woods. I own another house that sits further back on its own parcel. How it is right now, I can use the property that the bike trail is taking to get from the road to this parcel, which means if they take it, this property would be land locked. I've spent most of my life self-employed, and without utilizing the property my life would be devastated.