

Willig, Robert A.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 11:37 AM
To: ACRE Shared Mailbox
Subject: Re: Acre Act [REDACTED]

Mr. Willig,

Thank you in your assistance with this matter. I will be on the lookout for the letter. Please let me know if you need anything else from me.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On Nov 12, 2019, at 8:51 AM, ACRE Shared Mailbox <acre@attorneygeneral.gov> wrote:

[REDACTED]

I will open up an ACRE case in this matter. I will be sending you a letter informing you that an ACRE case has been opened and I will send your ACRE complaint written below to the Township asking for a response.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Willig
Senior Deputy Attorney General
1251 Waterfront Place
Mezzanine Level
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2019 8:11 PM
To: ACRE Shared Mailbox <acre@attorneygeneral.gov>
Subject: Acre Act - [REDACTED]

Good Evening,

I am contacting you in regards to the acre act. I believe my township (Fairview Township) is intentionally trying to stop my agricultural business from being financially viable. We are currently a [REDACTED] struggling to stay in business due to the declining live tree industry. In order to keep the farm operating we have planted 3 acres of Wine Grapes and are trying to construct a new building to process our grapes into wine and to have a location to sell our product. As the ordinance states, agricultural buildings are exempt from land development. However, they are claiming I am not an agricultural operation and forcing me to do a land development plan and build commercially. Not only the cost of the plan will bankrupt the business but the commercial requirements to build (paved roads, curbs, street lights, etc...) also is not financially feasible. Also, with those requirements it will lack the farm experience that our customers are looking for.

Not only is the township trying to hinder my agricultural operation, they are in support of housing development and know that my farm is currently zoned for residential. I strongly believe they are trying to hinder me so that I have no other option but to sell to a developer for housing.

Below are some of the ordinances that state that agricultural buildings are exempt from land development. I hope someone from the state is able to assist me with this matter and appreciate you taking the time to hear my situation.

260-7

C.

"Land development" does not include development which involves:

(2)

The addition of an accessory building, including farm building, on a lot or lots subordinate to an existing principal building.

I would argue the building is accessory building as defined in the zoning ordinance and exempted under the saldo.

From Zoning Ordinance:

300-11

BUILDING, ACCESSORY

A detached, subordinate building or structure, the use of which is customarily incidental and subordinate to that of the principal building, structure, or otherwise *principal use of the lot*, and which is located on the same lot as that occupied by the principal building, structure, or otherwise *principal use* of the lot.

AGRI-TAINMENT/AGRI-TOURISM

An enterprise upon and accessory to a working farm or agricultural operation and offered to the public or to invited groups for the purpose of combining and providing the

elements and characteristics of agriculture, entertainment, education, recreation, or active involvement in the farm operation.

Thanks,

A redacted signature consisting of three thick, black horizontal bars of varying lengths, completely obscuring the text underneath.

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PA-OAG

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