



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

JOSH SHAPIRO
ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 22, 2021

Office of the Attorney General
1251 Waterfront Place
Mezzanine Level
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: ACRE Request for Review – Long Branch Borough, Washington County

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

I appreciate Long Branch Borough resending its earlier September 27, 2021 response to the ACRE complaint to me. The ACRE complaint and the Borough's response greatly assist this Office in thoroughly reviewing this matter.

If I understand the Borough's response correctly, its current timber harvesting ordinance is based on a previous version of the Pennsylvania State University School of Agriculture's Model Ordinance. Perhaps that is the version PSU published in the 2004 document *Dealing with Local Timber Harvesting Ordinances: A Guide for the Forestry Community*. Long Branch states that it "will be updating its current Ordinance to come into compliance with the Pennsylvania Model Forestry Regulations as recommended by the" OAG. That is good news.

PSU issued an updated forestry resource document a couple of years ago. The latest version of the PSU Model Timber Ordinance as well as a wealth of information concerning timber harvesting is included in the school's 2019 publication *Forest Management and Timber Harvesting in Pennsylvania: Information for Citizens and Local Government Officials*. This document is found at EE0249 Timber Harvesting_Final.pdf (pa.gov). The Model Ordinance is at the back of this publication.

The OAG proposes the following. Long Branch drafts a proposed timber harvesting ordinance based on the 2019 PSU Model. The Borough sends that draft to the OAG for review. Once the OAG and Long Branch agree on an acceptable ordinance, the Borough then enacts the new ordinance and sends proof to the OAG of the enactment. Once the OAG receives that confirmation, this Office will close the case. Please let me know if this proposal is acceptable.

I thank the parties once again for their assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Willig
Senior Deputy Attorney General