

Willig, Robert A.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 3:36 PM
To: Willig, Robert A.
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Durham Township Timber Harvest Ordinance
Attachments: [REDACTED]

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Goodafternoon Mr. Willig,

I am writing to you about the Durham Township Bucks County PA timber harvest ordinance. I was working with a landowner in their township that wanted to conduct a selective timber harvest and when I saw their timber harvest ordinance, I knew it violated the ACRE Law right away. I explained this to the zoning officer who asked me to send him an email about what areas of their ordinance violated the ACRE Law and he would forward it to his solicitor (March 2023). I had worked with their solicitor [REDACTED] on changing a timber harvest ordinance in the adjoining township. [REDACTED] was great to work with and was very familiar with the ACRE Law. [REDACTED] told Durham Township that what I sent in the email was correct and that the township should change their ordinance to be legal. [REDACTED] was asked to type up a new timber harvest ordinance and he typed up one very similar to the Penn State recommended one and said to Durham Township that the new ordinance would be in one with everything in the ACRE Law (this was presented at the May 2023 meeting). Numerous members of the township were at the meeting and not happy to hear about what [REDACTED] said. The board of supervisors were also quite against changing the timber harvest ordinance. The one board of supervisor [REDACTED] stepped in and said that "if the state attorney general wants to come after us over our ordinance then come and get us" with a very aggressive tone. I then spoke up and introduced myself, told them about my background and then answered some of the concerns I heard the audience talking about and then started talking about what sustainable forestry is and how township's strict ordinance's can prevent the right practice from happening. However, [REDACTED] got very heated with how he was talking with me and cut me off. I told him that I was trying to help resolve this ordinance by showing them the evidence of the ACRE Law and other townships in PA that were challenged and lost and that I didnt want to have to email the Attorney General's office. Then 3 months past and in the August meeting [REDACTED] stated "[REDACTED] advised the EAC to follow the current ordinance that is in place, supervisors will defend the ordinance as it stands if it would be challenged." I have attached the August meeting minutes that stated this. I have also attached my email chain with the zoning officer and a copy of their timber harvest ordinance.

On top of all of this, after dealing with this for 6 months, my client ended up backing out of cutting timber. Could you please help me get this resolved so that I can work throughout Durham Township?

Thank you!

[REDACTED]