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August 5, 2025

Office of Attorney General
Agricultural Advisory & ACRE Program
15th Floor, Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Subject: ACRE Law Complaint – Personal Sawmill Use in Latimore Township

To Whom It May Concern,

I am submitting this letter to accompany my formal complaint under Pennsylvania's Agriculture, Communities and Rural Environment (ACRE) law.

I am the owner of a rural property located at [REDACTED] Pennsylvania, within Latimore Township. I use a portable sawmill on my property for strictly personal and agricultural purposes, including cutting lumber for deck repairs and firewood storage. Despite this non-commercial, normal agricultural use, Latimore Township has issued an enforcement notice against me, citing alleged zoning violations.

I believe this enforcement action constitutes an unlawful local restriction on a normal agricultural operation, contrary to the protections provided under the ACRE law.

Enclosed with this letter are the completed ACRE complaint form and supporting documentation, including a copy of the enforcement notice and additional background on the use of the sawmill.

I respectfully request that your office investigate this matter and determine whether the Township's ordinance and enforcement actions are in violation of state law.

Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] if any additional information is required.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Willig, Robert A.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 9:04 AM
To: ACRE Shared Mailbox
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Sawmill used for personal use

My property is 3.361 acres. Single family dwelling residence. I do not farm the land but I do intend to have a large garden for my family. I work full time as a machinist apprentice at [REDACTED] in York pa.

These are some of the projects I would like to complete in order of importance.

Repair deck-it's the original deck to the house so it's 25 years old
Build a firewood shed-I do heat the house with a wood stove
Garden enclosure-neighbor feeds deer so ideally I'd like to build a full enclosure to keep animals out
Framing material for a pole barn
Swing set for the kids
Possibly a fence

My family does own a sawmill at [REDACTED] which is approx 90mins away. I'm not sawing lumber at my residence and then taking it up there. I explained this to the supervisors before. I prefer to saw lumber for my own use when I have free time to tinker with it vs driving 3 hours to maybe saw for a couple hours.

I do not have a business registered or signs advertising that I'm selling lumber at my residence.

I believe the enforcement notice is more geared towards noise and disturbing the neighbors peace. I can provide decibel reading of the sawmill from the manufacturer as well as comparisons to a chain saw, lawn mower etc. We are surrounded by farm land, I don't think the issue is noise. I believe the township is treated me unfairly for being new to the area. I made a complaint about someone selling firewood commercially on the same road as me and I had to contact the individual selling the wood to prove to the township that this person was indeed selling firewood. I have also made other complaints and the township has not enforced anything to these other individuals either.

I have appealed this enforcement notice to the zoning hearing board, I did speak to the township solicitor last week he did not receive anything from township yet.

On Tue, Aug 5, 2025 at 8:04 AM ACRE Shared Mailbox <acre@attorneygeneral.gov> wrote:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]