



WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
6820 MARKET STREET
RUSSELL PA 16345-3406

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April 22, 2024

Ms. Brandi Rosselli, AICP
Manager, Community Planning
Mackin Engineering
103 Technology Drive
Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15275

Dear Ms. Rosselli:

As stakeholders deeply invested in the well-being and sustainable development of Warren County, we are acutely aware of the challenges posed by the conversion of private land to public lands and the subsequent decline in tax revenue. It is imperative that we take proactive measures to safeguard our community's economic stability while also preserving our natural landscapes and ecosystems.

Currently, approximately 32% of Warren County's total acreage is owned by tax-exempt entities such as the Allegheny National Forest, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and the Pennsylvania State Forest. While the preservation of this land undoubtedly brings numerous benefits, it is essential to acknowledge that these entities do not contribute financially to the county through property taxes. If additional tax-exempt properties are added to the County, our schools and municipalities will lose revenues and would have to drastically increase the tax burden on private property owners just to stay afloat and push our residents further into poverty. It is crucial that we strike a balance between conservation efforts and fiscal responsibility to ensure the long-term prosperity of our community.

By adopting a "no net loss" policy for private property and carefully considering the implications of adding additional tax-exempt properties, Warren County can demonstrate its commitment to sustainable economic development, which will protect our tax base. On behalf of the Warren County School District Board of School Directors, please accept this letter that the Warren County School District is in favor of the proposed amendment to the Warren County Comprehensive Plan.

Respectfully,

Paul J. Mangione
Board President

The Warren County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment practices and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Eric Mineweaser, Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator at 6820 Market Street, Russell, PA 16345 or (814) 723-6900.