

[by Smita Bharti · 2,240 supporters](#)

[Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors: Deny Toll Brothers development plan](#)

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Petition update

Nittany Valley Water Coalition Forging Ahead



Smita Bharti

State College, PA

Nov 21, 2015 — Main Points

1. **NEXT STEPS:** In the wake of Monday night's appalling decision by the Ferguson Township supervisors (Mascolo, Clemson, Miller and Killian), local organizers have been working with attorneys Jordan B. Yeager and Paul R. Cohen of Curtin & Heefner LLP to prepare a lawsuit to challenge the supervisors' decision and stop the development threat to our public drinking water, our agricultural security areas, and our regional planning framework.

We've been reaching out to potential plaintiffs and have begun fundraising. Thousands of dollars have already been contributed in the last few days to get things moving. Thank you to those contributors.

2. **NITTANY VALLEY WATER COALITION:** We've set up a new citizens' network called Nittany Valley Water Coalition – "residents of the Nittany Valley watershed working together to protect our drinking water resources from development threats."

3. **PUBLIC INFORMATION:** There will be two main public communication channels for the Nittany Valley Water Coalition as the legal challenge gets underway.

One is a new Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/Nittany-Valley-Water-Coalition-411453045714666/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel.

The other is the Change.org petition signers' mailing list. Please continue to forward information to your networks as well.

4. **EMAIL:** For incoming and internal communications, the new email address is nittanyvalleywater@gmail.com. Lead organizers will use that account to manage correspondence related to plaintiff recruitment, fundraising, media inquiries and legal strategy.

5. PLAINTIFF RECRUITMENT: If you want more information about how to participate in the lawsuit as a plaintiff, please contact Kelli Hoover at nittanyvalleywater@gmail.com with “Plaintiff Recruitment” in the subject line.

6. FINANCE: Fundraising and payments to the law firm are being coordinated by CommunityWise, a State College nonprofit citizens' organization formed in August of 2013 in response to the Columbia Gas/PSU pipeline fight. If you want to support the lawsuit financially, please send donation checks made out to "CommunityWise" to 420 South Burrowes St., State College PA, 16801.

7. Media inquiries are being handled by Katherine Watt. Email nittanyvalleywater@gmail.com with “Media” in the subject line or call 237-0996.

THANK YOU TO LAURA DININNI

As Laura Dininni – the lead organizer on the water protection campaign since she discovered the threat in February of this year – wrote via Save State College’s Water Supply a few days ago,

<https://www.facebook.com/savestatecollegewater/?fref=nf>

“her role in this battle must change because the only recourse left is legal intervention, and for her to be involved in a lawsuit would be a conflict of interest with her service as newly-elected Ferguson Township Supervisor.”

Although she is not involved with the lawsuit, she is focused on preparing to take office and asks that supporters “continue to contact her privately with thoughts and ideas, and in January come lend your voices and minds to the tasks at hand.”

I am enormously grateful to Laura, for her amazing leadership on this issue these last many months, and the grueling hours of her personal time she’s devoted, attending countless meetings, writing emails, campaigning, phone calling, engaging in personal conversations. I can't wait to see her take her seat on the Ferguson Board of Supervisors in January and continue her great work for this community.

To send Laura personal thanks and support notes, email lmd242@gmail.com.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, EVERYONE!

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