

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

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

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Petition update

Summer Signature Scavenger Hunt



Smita Bharti

State College, PA

Jun 8, 2015 — Campaign setback at the Ferguson Township supervisors' meeting last week.

Video of the June 1 meeting is at the link below - discussion of PSU/Toll Brothers/PennTerra development starts at about 1:00 hour into the meeting.

<http://cnet1.org/video/ShowByMember/7/>

In response to Steve Miller and Drew Clemson's expressed contempt for the relevance of public demand for strong drinking water and productive farmland protection - and public opposition to ruined public water supplies and growth boundary violations - I decided to bring YOUR voices - as petition signers - to public meetings in the area.

My first stop was the State College Planning Commission meeting on June 3, and my second stop was at the Centre Region Council of Governments Public Safety Committee meeting on June 4.

At these meetings, I've learned that many public officials still do not know the facts about the water and land threat, and many public officials still believe that their lack of a direct vote on the development plan equates to a gag on their ability - their responsibility - to speak up and speak out opposing the development plan on behalf of their constituencies.

You can help change that.

There's now a Summer Signature Scavenger Hunt Tool Kit at Steady State College:

<https://steadystatecollege.wordpress.com/2015/06/07/summer-signature-savenger-hunt/>

It includes a two-page fact sheet - emphasizing that the facts are not in dispute. It's the relevance and weight of the facts - for public policy-making - that are in dispute.

Dick Mascolo, Ron Lucas, David Gray and Dan Sieminski believe the additional threat to the public water

supply is acceptable.

1,993 of you (as of today) do not consent to the endangerment of YOUR public water.

Along with the fact sheet are 18 letters-of-opposition, for the following organizations:

Centre County Agricultural Land Preservation Board
Centre County Farmland Trust
Centre County Planning Commission
Clearwater Conservancy
College Township Council
College Township Planning Commission
CRCOG Planning Commission
CRCOG Public Safety Committee
CRCOG Public Services & Environmental Committee
CRCOG Transportation & Land Use Committee
Farmland Preservation Artists of Central PA
PSU Sustainability Institute
Spring Creek Watershed Association
Spring Creek Watershed Commission
State College Borough Mayor and Council
State College Borough Water Authority
State College Planning Commission
University Area Joint Authority

The text is adapted from the Sierra Club - Moshannon Group letter of opposition adopted May 5 by the executive committee and circulated by Steve Lachman.

<https://steadystatecollege.wordpress.com/2015/05/14/sierra-club-moshannon-group-public-statement/>

Your mission this summer - should you choose to accept it - is to print out a few of these letters, track down the people who need to sign it, get them to sign it, or get them justify their refusal.

Fear of losing a Penn State job is a plausible reason, but they need to go on the public record saying that that fear is what's gagging them.

Other useful information for the scavenger hunt is included at the post, including the latest Petition Signature & Comment PDFs, a June 2015 Municipal Meeting Schedule, and the 2015 Centre County Municipal Officials Directory, which contains comprehensive information about committee memberships, meeting days, times, and locations.

Political Act of Courage for the Week:

At the June 3 State College Planning Commission, when Mike Roeckel kept bleating that local government officials need to make decisions based on facts, not on opinions, and that he still doesn't think he has access to the facts about the water threat, Commissioner Charles Dumas had the courage to point out that the "will of the people" matters too.