

MATTHEW J. RYAN
THE SPEAKER

ROOM 139, MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020
(717) 757-4610



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INDEPENDENT
REVIEW COMMISSION

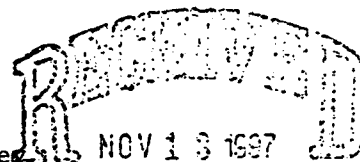
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

November 12, 1997

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Nyce Bureau of Forestry,
Smith Div. of State Forest Management
Sandusky Good rec'd
Legal (2)
Notebook

Warren A. Ely, Chief
Division of State Forest Management
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552

Dear Mr. Ely:

I am writing in regard to proposed new regulations affecting state forest land.

Sections 21.26 and 21.27 would prohibit horses and bicycles on the 18 state forest designated hiking trails and the national hiking trails unless posted as open to such use. In my opinion, this proposed change favors one recreational use (hiking) to the disadvantage of other uses (horseback riding and bicycling).

I do not believe this is prudent use of facilities paid for by all taxpayers.

My legislative district in Delaware County has many horse owners and riders. In fact, I live right across the road from Ridley Creek State Park where horseback riding is a very popular activity. The general policy proposed in these new regulations seems to me to say that this activity is not welcome in state forests. I believe this is a mistake.

I appreciate your consideration of my comments.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of Matthew J. Ryan in cursive.

MATTHEW J. RYAN
The Speaker

MJR:nr