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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Original: 2141

September 20, 2000

COMMITTEES

TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
MAJORITY CHAIRMAN

GAME AND FISHERIES
INSURANCE
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND FINANCE

Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Farmland Protection
Attention: Ray Pickering
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Re: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Farmland Protection
7 Pa. Code Chapter 137b: Preferential Assessment of Farmland and
Forest Land under the Clean and Green Act
I.D. No. 2-133

Dear Mr. Pickering:

It has come to my attention that the proposed rulemaking referenced above, specifically excludes from the definition of "outdoor recreation" land used for "baseball, soccer fields, football fields, golf courses or similar uses." (Section 137b.2) The effect of this exclusion is to make such land ineligible for the "ag reserve" land use category and thus ineligible for preferential assessment under the Clean and Green Program.

I vehemently object to this provision since many, if not most, of the youth recreation baseball and soccer league fields in my area are on land presently enrolled in Clean and Green. The owners of the land recognize the need of these youth leagues for fields and their financial inability to pay for such. As good citizens of the community, they are happy to allow such a use free of charge. Were the land to become ineligible for Clean and Green, I can assure you that these recreational areas would no longer be made available and literally thousands of kids would be thrown out in the streets.

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LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND FINANCE
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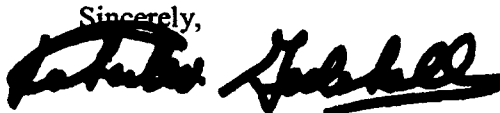


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I request that changes be made to these proposed regulations which allow for this passive, and at-no-charge, use of Clean and Green property. To do otherwise would result in either removal of large tracts from Clean and Green, or the loss of a large number of baseball and soccer fields used by volunteer recreation organizations. I do not believe either scenario is acceptable.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Godshall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent underline at the end.

Robert W. Godshall, Member
53rd Legislative District

RG/

cc: Representative Raymond Bunt, Jr.