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Voting Member Organizations

Allegheny Land Trust
Armstrong Trails
Allegheny Valley Trails Association
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Armstrong County Conservancy
Berks Nature
Brandywine Conservancy
The Buck Hill Conservation Foundation
Central Pennsylvania Conservancy
Centre County Farmland Trust
Chesapeake Conservancy
Chestnut Hill Conservancy
ClearWater Conservancy
The Conservation Fund, Pennsylvania Office
Countryside Conservancy
Delaware Highlands Conservancy
Earth Conservancy
Edward L. Rose Conservancy
Evergreen Conservancy
Farm and Natural Land Trust of York County
Foundation for Sustainable Forests
Fox Chapel Area Land Trust
French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust
French Creek Valley Conservancy
Glade Run Lake Conservancy
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association
Heritage Conservancy
Hollow Oak Land Trust
Independence Conservancy
Lackawanna Valley Conservancy
Lancaster Conservancy
Lancaster Farmland Trust
The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County
Land Conservancy of Adams County
Land Trust of Bucks County
Lebanon Valley Conservancy
London Britain Land Trust
Manada Conservancy
Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy
Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy
Mokoma Conservancy
Montour Trail Council
Natural Lands
Neighborhood Gardens Trust
North American Land Trust
North Branch Land Trust
Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy
Open Land Conservancy of Chester County
Pennsbury Land Trust
Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society
Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust
Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust
Pine Creek Valley Watershed Association
Pocono Heritage Land Trust
The Radnor Conservancy
Regional Trail Corporation
Schuylkill County Conservancy
Schuylkill River Greenways
Somerset County Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
The Wallace Trust
Tinicum Conservancy
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Westmoreland Conservancy
Westmoreland Land Trust
Wild Waterways Conservancy Inc.
Wildlands Conservancy
Willistown Conservation Trust
Wissahickon Trails

December 13, 2021

Re. **HB 1694 Protects Volunteers
and Supports Volunteerism**

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 70 volunteer-based, member organizations of WeConservePA (formerly the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association) and their more than 100,000 Pennsylvania members, I ask you to **support HB 1694**, which will come before the House this week. The bill passed unanimously out of the Tourism and Recreational Development Committee on October 27.

This bipartisan bill will provide commonsense limited liability protections for volunteers and volunteer groups who give freely of their time to maintain and improve parks, trails, and other recreational areas open to the public. At no cost to taxpayers, their voluntary service makes these community assets safer and more accessible; their service creates more enjoyable outdoor experiences for everyone.

House Bill 1694 will protect volunteers and volunteer groups from being drawn into litigation merely because they have helped with parks, trails, and other lands open to the public rather than because of real negligence on their part. Fishing expedition litigation saps the energy of volunteers and jacks up insurance premiums, diverting charitable dollars from community projects and making volunteerism unaffordable.

The bill addresses a real-life problem. For example, the Friends of Pennypack were sued twice for accidents that had nothing to do with their trail work. As a result, their insurer withdrew its insurance coverage and the volunteer group was forced to disband. It is terrible for communities to lose the vitality and energy brought by volunteers. Fortunately, HB 1694 can prevent such loss.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew M. Loza
Executive Director

cc: member organizations