

I am a resident of Horton Township, Elk County. This is where I lived most of my life. I moved out of the area in 2005 and found myself missing the quiet this area brings. In 2011, I decided I was going to come back home. I bought a home along Route 219 and settled in. I recently found out about the railroad they want to put in my backyard from my neighbor as I didn't receive a letter like most people.

There are concerns I have with putting in this railroad.

1. The wildlife I see daily will be disrupted. Deer, birds, rabbits, turtles, red headed woodpeckers, cranes, and frogs. The animals I see on a daily basis. The deer with their fawns have a path from the woods to my backyard they use year after year. As the years have passed, I have seen more and more animals come into the area. I have observed bald eagles flying up and down Toby Creek. At one time, you did not see them at all.
2. The creeks and streams-what happens to them when you start messing their natural environment? The fish that swim in the water, brown trout, rainbow trout, brook trout will no longer be able to live because of contaminants going into the waterways. The bald eagles and cranes will leave to look for another food source.
3. In 2014, FEMA, came and reclassified the area a flood zone. Shortly after, Toby Creek rose and flooded a portion of Route 219 including my house. I have a sump pump under my house that runs regularly because of the constant water that collects there.

I planned to retire in the home I bought when I returned here. I cannot imagine looking out my back window and seeing a railroad track with a train running on it instead of the wildlife and trees I see now. I have added a picture of my backyard. I am standing on my porch and where the tree stand is where the railroad tracks would start on my property.

Thank you





