

Date

Chair, Board of Township Supervisors, or President, or Borough Council

Address

Municipality

Re: Protection of environmental resources in zoning: natural, historic, scenic, etc.do

Dear _____

As a resident of _____ Township/Borough, I do not believe our municipal ordinances provide adequate and required protection for our environment in all of its forms: natural resources, historic properties and places that make up the built environment, scenic areas or archeological sites. I request that Supervisors/Council consider amendments to our zoning and other ordinances that will provide adequate and required protections for these features of our municipality's environment.

The ordinance amendments proposed here are supported by the Pennsylvania Constitution and its Environmental Rights Amendment. Further, as the extension of the Constitution, these environmental protections are mandated by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. Also, plans for environmental protections are supposed to be included in our Comprehensive Plan and these protections are encouraged for municipalities through the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.

In addition, the (**municipal name**) Comprehensive Plan contains (***should contain***) recommendations to include ordinance provisions in our community that would establish protections for environmental resources.

I understand that these Constitutionally-protected rights and related Commonwealth statutes and policies enable, encourage and in some cases require local governments to enact municipal ordinances that strike a balance between the rights of private property owners and the protection and conservation of the environmental heritage in our municipality. However, my review of the Township's current zoning ordinance shows there are no pro-active, inclusive or effective provisions to (***the points below showing lack of environmental protections should be verified, modified or eliminated as local circumstances determine. One or more of these provisions will be found to be lacking in nearly all municipalities in Lancaster County***):

- 1) protect natural resources from wasteful or destructive use;
- 2) recognize and protect buildings that may hold historic architectural or cultural significance (i.e., association with people or events important in our community history);
- 3) protect sites that are known to contain, or that may contain the remains of earlier inhabitants of this community prior to settlement by European immigrants, i.e., remains of Native American and their communities.

I request that Supervisors consider this request by taking a vote to authorize the (**municipal**) Planning Commission to review this matter and issue a report of their findings to supervisors/council members and the community in a timely manner as to whether the Planning Commission advises if zoning ordinance amendments are in order, and in general, what form and content such amendments might include.

Sincerely,

Name