

Lancaster County Conservancy

SAVING NATURE

February 28, 2018

Ronald M. Gardner, Jr.
Scout Executive & CEO
Boy Scouts of America, New Birth of Freedom Council
1 Baden Powell Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-2344

Dear New Birth Freedom Scouts and Friends,

The Lancaster County Conservancy is delighted to partner with the Boy Scouts to permanently protect Wizard Ranch as a public nature preserve. The transfer and sale of this property to the Conservancy will safeguard the land so future generations can have a place on which to flourish and thrive. They can go camping, experience nature, and connect with the animals and plants with which we share the earth.

The Conservancy has been preserving and caring for the Susquehanna Riverlands for nearly 50 years. We were founded by hunters and fishermen to protect wild natural lands from development, and we now own over 5,000 acres in York and Lancaster Counties. Wizard Ranch will join other nature preserves in the Susquehanna Riverlands like Otter Creek, Wilton Meadows, Tucquan Glen, and Shenks Ferry.

The Conservancy negotiated an agreement with our primary funder, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which will allow the Boy Scouts to use the property for their Wizard Safari every four years. We are working on plans to address regular wilderness camping not only for scouting groups but also the general public. Our expectation is that this tract will be available to hikers through the Mason-Dixon Trail but also to folks wanting to get exercise and escape on Wizard Ranch's trails. This property is part of a larger project that includes an additional 700 acres of Hellam Hills which the Conservancy is protecting.

We view this project is a win/win/win. The public wins because this land is permanently protected as a nature preserve; the Scouts win because they can continue to use the camp for Safari; and nature wins because we manage this land for the birds, bats, insects, plants and trees with which we share this earth.

If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Kate Gonick, our In-House Counsel and Director of Land Protection, at 717-392-7891.

Sincerely,

Philip R. Wenger
President & CEO