[redacted]

[redacted]

May 21, 2026

Via Email to [redacted]
And Regular Mail

Robert A. Willig, Esquire
Senior Deputy Attorney General
Office of Attorney General
1251 Waterfront Place – Mezzanine Level
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

RE: ACRE Request for Review – Richmond Township, Berks County – [redacted]

Dear Attorney Willig,

Please be advised that this office represents Richmond Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. We write in response to your correspondence dated May 19, 2026, regarding the ACRE Request for Review submitted by [redacted]

The Township has reviewed [redacted]equest, including the provision of the Richmond Township Zoning Ordinance referenced in the complaint. The complaint cites language from Section 804.2 of the Zoning Ordinance stating that "[r]emoval of forest or timber is prohibited without prior approval of the Zoning Hearing Board." However, that language is not a general regulation of timber harvesting as a standalone principal use.

Section 804 contains special exception conditions, and Section 804.2 specifically applies to quarries, sandpits, gravel pits, removal of earthen fill, and similar extractive operations. Accordingly, the quoted language applies in the context of those extractive uses; it is not interpreted or applied by the Township to require Zoning Hearing Board approval for timber harvesting generally.

The Zoning Ordinance separately defines "Agriculture (General)" to include "[t]he production, harvesting and preparation of agricultural, agronomic, horticultural, silvicultural, and aquaculture crops and products." Agriculture (General), pursuant to Section 523, is listed as a permitted use in both the R-C Rural-Conservation District and the R-A Rural-Agriculture District.

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Township does require zoning review/zoning permit approval for timber harvesting. The Township's permit application identifies "timber harvest" as an activity requiring zoning review. That review is handled administratively through the zoning permit process. It does not require Zoning Hearing Board approval unless some separate provision of the Zoning Ordinance is independently implicated, such as where the activity is part of an extractive operation requiring special exception approval.

In short, Richmond Township does not interpret or apply its Zoning Ordinance to require Zoning Hearing Board approval for timber harvesting as a standalone forestry or silvicultural use. The ZHB-approval language cited in the complaint is limited to the extractive-operation context of Section 804.2.

Please contact me if you need any additional information from the Township.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

CJH/cab
cc: Richmond Township via email
[redacted]via email