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**Petition update**

## **Supervisors Voted to Approve the Toll Bros./PSU Plan**



**Smita Bharti**

State College, PA

Nov 17, 2015 — This evening, the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors voted 4-0 (Janet Whitaker absent) to give a municipal stamp of approval to the Toll Brothers/Penn State student housing development atop the Harter-Thomas water recharge area.

THANK YOU - to ALL petition signers - for all of your signatures, emails, phone calls, conversations at work and in your neighborhoods and at home, for coming out to meetings, and for educating yourselves and your loved ones about our local water system, our local agricultural land, and our local democracy, and threats to all three.

Turnout at the meeting was fantastic and a dozen people made extremely clear, sound, evidence-supported statements urging the board to either deny the plan or table the vote until the new supervisors are seated next year.

The supervisors were unable to respond in kind. They reiterated the incoherent, misinformed, misleading gibberish they've been spouting all along and then voted to put the mess behind them and solidify their alliance with corporations (Toll Brothers and Penn State) against our human and ecological communities.

Roughly 150-200 people in the room witnessed firsthand the broken sham that American municipal democracy has become in 2015, and the personal contempt that elected officials hold for us as citizens. Many more people saw the events unfold on C-NET.

Next steps: at least one lawsuit is already in the works and we'll send out more information as we think through the implications of this turning point and pivot to the next phase in the fight for community protection of essential water and farmland resources, and the fight for community reconstruction of local democracy.

We very much want to keep building this network of people and the momentum that started with this campaign, to change things for the better going forward.

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