From: norma martine
To: Planning
Subject: DGEIS PUBLIC COMMENT
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HI

Here are my comments regarding ENDANGERED PLANT/ANIMAL SPECIES HABITAT:

1. The Small Whorled Pogonia grows in wetland areas. We believe these exist here and the study should be redone. It is alarming that some of the studies were done in the winter when these plant species aren't even growing, let alone in bloom.

2. On bats: This proposed project will require many acres of tree clearing, grubbing, and earth moving in upland forest area. We'd like a CUMULATIVE HABITAT LOSS IMPACT STUDY to be done for the bats: We have already LOST many bats and it is not enough to cut trees in spring and summer. Once maternity roosting nests are gone, they are gone. Where will these bats who returned to the same place year after year go?
3. Sadly, many bat species around the world are vulnerable or endangered due to loss and fragmentation of habitat, diminished food supply, and destruction of roosts.The decrease in bat numbers mirrors the ever-changing countryside. Natural habitats such as hedgerows, woodlands and ponds have been declining and fragmenting. It is important that we create new suitable habitats and manage and enhance existing habitats to help bats recover and survive .Loss of habitathave lead to a reduction in the abundance of insects which the bats rely on as their only food source. Indiana bats are particularly sensitive. "Biologists began to notice declines in the '60s," Carson says. "They have a pretty specific set of hibernation requirements. They cluster together in very large clusters, it used to be millions now we see tens of thousands together."

4. What is your plan to mitigate pest control in the area as bat populations decline because of these projects? Bats do $23 **billion** worth of agricultural pest control each year. *"So without bats we're looking at a huge increase in pesticide usage and food costs going through the roof, too."* How do you plan to protect the agricultural area in terms of pest control while destroying bat populations?

5. What will you do for neighbors who have bats roosting in their homes/properties as a result of loss of habitat?

6. We propose installing BAT BOXES around the properties and elsewhere in the surrounding area. These should equal the amount of trees cut down, to provide the same amount of housing for the homeless bats. Though bat boxes cannot replace the range of natural cavities and features that trees provide, they can create additional roosting opportunities for a variety of species. Bat boxes can be fitted on trees and can be purchased prebuilt, or created from DIY designs. Shelter is not the only resource that bats require however and their food and water supplies need to be taken into consideration as well.

Thank you
Norma Jean Martine