10-15-18

Dear DEP/LUPC:

I am reading a book called *The Last Season* by Eric Blehm. It’s about the life of a national park service back country ranger Randy Morgenson and his lifelong obsession on educating camper’s, hiker’s, and backpacker’s on how to respect nature and every living plant and creature to preserve the wilderness for all generations to come. So that everyone can witness its beauty as he has.

  On one of his photography workshops called Wilderness Landscapes he quotes Supreme Court Associate Justice William O. Douglas on one of the environmental movements greatest battle’s: Sierra Club V.  Morton - the 1972 Supreme Court case widely referred to as Mineral King versus Disney. Where Walt Disney almost turned the Mineral King Valley into a huge resort. Mineral King is the case that raised the question of rights for inanimate objects.

      “So, it should be as respects valleys, alpine meadows, rivers, lakes, estuaries, beaches, ridges, groves of trees, swampland, or even air that feels the destructive pressures of modern technology and modern life. The river, for example, is the living symbol of all the life it sustains and nourishes - fish, aquatic insects, waterouzels, otter, fisher, deer, elk, bear, and all other animals including man, who are dependent on it or who enjoy it for its sight, it’s sound, or it’s life. The river as plaintiff speaks for the ecological unit of life that is part of it. Those people who have a meaningful relation to that body of water - whether it be a fisherman, a canoeist, a zoologist, or a logger - must be able to speak for the values which the river represents and which are threatened with destruction.”

“WHO WILL SPEAK FOR THE TREES ?”

Respectfully,
Douglas Clark DeHart
317 Tilden rd.
Thorofare NJ.
856.693.1925

ps. I highly recommend the book!

Sandra Howard can submit this letter into testimony for me.