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Herrin Announces \$2 Million in Funding for Crebilly Farm Preservation

9/8/2022 – State Representative Dianne Herrin (D-Chester) announced the awarding of \$2 million from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) 2022 Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2), which will support Westtown Township in its bid to acquire and preserve Crebilly Farm.

“Over the last five years, Westtown Township supervisors and residents have worked tirelessly to fend off development and destruction of the historically significant Crebilly Farm,” Herrin said. “This DCNR funding brings Westtown Township an important step closer to acquiring this beautiful, hallowed ground.” The Township is working in partnership with Natural Lands to preserve the farm by purchasing 208 acres to become a Township park. The land conservation nonprofit hopes to purchase the remaining 104 acres of the farm, divide it into four conservation easement parcels, and sell these preserved parcels to private property owners. “Two million is the highest DCNR C2P2 award in the entire Commonwealth,” said Herrin. “This demonstrates the strength of this project and the high level of support from the state.”

Herrin said saving Crebilly is not just about preserving this one property. “This is the best defense against increased traffic congestion, higher school district and local taxes, and infrastructure problems like flooding that inevitably come with large influxes of new residential construction,” she said. “Simply put, saving Crebilly helps save this entire community and preserve all of the reasons people live here in the first place.”

Despite this impressive award, Herrin said the work to save Crebilly Farm is not finished. Namely, Westtown residents are being asked to support the open space referendum that will appear on the November 8 ballot this year, as this will enable the Township to further fund the land purchase while also preserving other open spaces in the Township. Further funding from both private and public donors is also needed so the Township and Natural Lands can meet their agreement of sale obligations with the current property owner.

State Senator Carolyn Comitta (D-Chester) also applauds the award to Westtown Township. “When I served as state representative for Westtown Township, I was glad to join a broad coalition of community leaders seeking to preserve the scenic and historic land at Crebilly Farm,” Comitta said. “I appreciate this significant support for Westtown’s acquisition of the farm and for bringing us closer to the goal of permanently conserving it for generations to come.”

Crebilly Farm is one of the largest remaining pieces of open space in Chester County and is historically significant because part of the Battle of Brandywine was fought there during the Revolutionary War. “With the unwavering vision of Natural Lands, the tenacious citizen advocacy, and the demonstrated, continued leadership of the Township’s Board of Supervisors, we will get this done,” said Herrin.

For more information on the grant award, residents may contact Herrin’s office at 610-696-4990.

For more information about the project and referendum: [Crebilly Farm - Natural Lands \(natlands.org\)](https://natlands.org)