

RECEIVED VIA EMAIL – MAY 31, 2018

My family and I are resident in Peaks Bay. It has come to our attention that a fence may be erected. As a result, waterfront use and access will be blocked. This would limit our access to public lands as well as limit our access to the water. Prior to purchasing our property, it was well advertised that the waterfront was public.

We are opposed to the limitation imposed by a fence. The Town of Blue Mountains should be promoting public access on public lands and not taking those rights away from the public. My family is mindful of the ANSI and feel as though rather than restricting access, signage and public education would have the same effect of protecting these fossils. The waterfront area is a beautiful area which was a major factor in the purchase of our home.

The fact that access to the waterfront may be taken away is disturbing. The public should not be denied this valuable educational and recreational resource.

We also feel as though fencing off the water and blocking beach access creates a dangerous precedent which will be taken advantage of by anyone with a home near waterfront with the financial means to spark surveys.

Furthermore, if the fence is erected, there is no guarantee that the ANSI will be protected as desired. A review of the area appears to show significant landscaping construction in and around the ANSI area and no plan to fence the shore-front owners and their guests, just the rest of the public. Access should be consistent for all.

The fence and diminishing waterfront access will have a detrimental financial effect on our property value and have the effect of placing more public on less waterfront which will carry its own problems.

Regards,

James V. Leone