

January 21, 2026

I would like to comment on the Clarksburg Gateway Sector Plan, the subject of a hearing this evening.

Ten Mile Creek and Little Seneca Reservoir are literally my back yard. As a biologist and photographer who has traveled much of the world this area holds great significance for me and not just due to its proximity. It is an area rich in wildlife and scenic beauty which provides untold opportunities for recreation to not just me, but thousands, who often travel from far away, to avail themselves of this gem of a place that are getting harder to find in today's world. Too often, the struggle between interests of development and preserving natural beauty are a one-sided affair where economic interests prevail at the expense of irreplaceable areas like Ten-mile creek and the surrounding area. By my thinking it is possible to have both interests served, but only if the input of groups like Friends of Ten Mile Creek and others are observed. Already the natural integrity of this area has been severely degraded and I fear the natural beauty that brought me and many others here will fall prey to overdevelopment. If the natural splendor that we have been blessed with is covered over with just more strip malls and housing developments then I wonder what value will the area hold for the multitudes that flock to such areas to escape the types of conditions that some of the proposed changes will bring about.

If I can provide any further information or specific suggestions, I would be happy to do so.

John Cancalosi