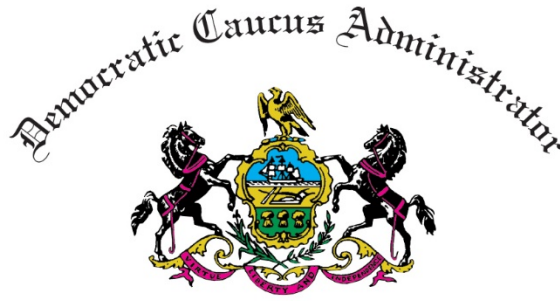


11TH DISTRICT  
STATE SENATOR  
**JUDITH L. SCHWANK**  
SENATE BOX 203011  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3011  
717-787-8925  
FAX: 717-772-0578

210 GEORGE STREET  
SUITE 201  
READING, PA 19605  
610-929-2151  
FAX: 610-929-2576

EMAIL: [senatorschwank@pasenate.com](mailto:senatorschwank@pasenate.com)  
WEBSITE: [www.SenatorSchwank.com](http://www.SenatorSchwank.com)



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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

## Senate of Pennsylvania

March 4, 2021

James B. Connor, Chairman  
Duke Realty  
8711 River Crossing Boulevard  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Dear Mr. Connor:

I am writing to you regarding one of your company's pending development projects, Valley Logistics Park, in Maxatawny Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

As I understand the current design plan for the Valley Logistics Park, the project will create approximately 2.7 million square feet of warehouse space on approximately 300 acres of farmland in Northern Berks County. The parcel rests in the heart of land first settled by Pennsylvania Germans in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Even today there are local residents who trace their family lineage to the area's first settlers. And, local residents are rightfully proud of and greatly value their local history and heritage.

Inevitably a development the size of the proposed Valley Logistics Park materially changes the character of the environs surrounding the project. While local concerns like impacts on water resources and traffic increases can often be mitigated by engineers and planners in the plan review/approval process, the loss of historical resources many times cannot be adequately addressed as once they are disturbed they are virtually impossible to replace. In this case, the Kemp Family Burial Ground is situated in the proposed development area. The cemetery is the final resting place for many of the area's founding settlers, some of whom were patriots who fought for the American cause in the Revolutionary War. And, there are still direct descendants of these earlier pioneers who live in the area.

As I understand current development plans, the remains of those buried in the cemetery would be disinterred and moved to another location away from their ancestral community. This has caused great concern and consternation among both descendants of individuals buried in the cemetery and a broad cross-section of the area residents. They justifiably do not want to see an important piece of local history and heritage erased from the map. While this situation has the potential to protract legally, I believe an opportunity presents itself to ameliorate the concerns of area residents and historic preservation advocates by allowing the cemetery to remain in place. By slightly adjusting the development plan to keep the Kemp family cemetery intact at its current location, Duke Realty will be preserving an irreplaceable part of our local heritage and demonstrate a strong desire to partner with the local community.

On behalf of the citizens I represent, I, therefore, respectfully urge you and your team to consider working with local citizens to preserve the Kemp family cemetery in its current location. This act of decency and respect will be welcomed and much appreciated by our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Judith L. Schwank  
Senator—11<sup>th</sup> District

JLS/TG