

## LETTERS

### Before you speak out, walk in their shoes

Editor:

I was in attendance at the public hearing held by the Department of Environmental Protection on March 8 in Barkeyville regarding the proposed asphalt plant. I am a resident of Barkeyville and also live on Stevenson Road so as you can imagine I am totally against this plant.

Please do not think the people who are against this plant are against new jobs or new businesses as we have been portrayed, because that is not the case. We understand the need for jobs.

In the late 1990's when talk of a proposed industrial park on Stevenson Road surfaced, my husband and I were against it along with the other residents of Stevenson Road. We liked our quiet life. Most people didn't even realize there was a road here. Well we lost that fight, but were assured any businesses that came into the industrial park would be "community friendly." We wouldn't even know they were here.

Well, things didn't exactly work out like that. There is already an increased amount of

traffic on our road but we accepted that with no complaints. When we found out an asphalt plant was coming in, it was time to complain. This is our home: My husband has lived on the same property for almost 40 years. We need to protect our home and I think anyone who was faced with this would feel the same way.

This proposed plant will literally be in our backyard. It will be approximately 700 feet away. It seems like it is easy for our elected officials from Franklin who live in Franklin, or members of the Oil Region Alliance who also live in Franklin or Oil City to say what a good thing this is.

It will not be their neighbor, they will not be breathing the air in Barkeyville, and they will not have truck traffic constantly going past their supposedly country home. So to all who came to the meeting and told us what a great thing this will be for Barkeyville, I ask you to walk a mile in our shoes.

— Susie Martin  
Barkeyville