

We must re-do the math for Barkeyville plant project

Editor:

In response to a recent letter about a boost in the economy due to the Hawbaker plant in Barkeyville: Have some people forgotten that this plant is locating in a KOZ (Keystone Opportunity Zone)?

That means there are no taxes collected, and that means no money for Venango County, Franklin School District and last but not least Barkeyville Borough. The reason they want to locate in Barkeyville is because of the tax savings.

The reality of the so-called 80 jobs is seven jobs at the proposed site (as per Hawbaker's DEP permit application) which will be transferred from the Mercer County location that will close upon this site opening. The

rest of the 80 jobs will be in the form of truck drivers and construction crews not associated with Barkeyville.

I guess my math is a little different when figuring what happens to a so-called \$40,000 a year income. First, 15 percent is taken in income tax, then the state tax and let's not forget local taxes. You still have to pay taxes even though the company you work for doesn't pay any of these taxes because of the KOZ.

Let's re-do the math on all the money Barkeyville may gain from this.

I have been waiting for seven years to see any payback from this industrial park.

— Randy Martin
Barkeyville