

## LETTERS

### Voting citizens want evenhanded representation from Washington

Editor:

As a law-abiding citizen, I have a gnawing need to respond to Congressman Peterson's "To whom it may concern" message on April 20. We all are "whom" in the zoning issue in the borough of Barkeyville. This issue is about the law and not about corporate America, Mr. Peterson.

I heard Gary Dovey testify under oath on April 11 that he:

1. Issued an incomplete permit to Hawbaker, based on an incomplete application.
2. Saw no conflict of interest being employed by the Oil Region Alliance and as the Barkeyville Borough zoning officer at the same time.
3. Issued a permit to Hawbaker on Dec. 31, 2006, that had not been publicly posted for comment to his knowledge.

I heard Mike Hawbaker testify under oath on April 11 that he:

1. Had no knowledge if Hawbaker had publicly posted the permit for their asphalt plant.
2. Hawbaker had done their "diligence" on the permit issuance and proceeded with construction knowing there was a degree of financial risk with construction while the permit was being contested.

On April 10, Judge William

Morgan of Warren County issued a ruling regarding the restraining order sought by citizens from Barkeyville to stop construction while the permit is being contested. His ruling states "there is a blatant disregard of the zoning laws of the commonwealth." Now Randy Seitz is interpreting the law regarding bonding by plaintiffs. He should know that bonding is required if the filing is deemed "frivolous" by the presiding judge. This is obviously not a "frivolous" case.

I would hope that Congressman Peterson, who has taken financial contributions from the Hawbakers (Google search — Hawbaker political contributions) would line up on the side of the law and wait for a fair-minded ruling by the zoning hearing board. Hawbaker's financial risk is self-imposed. We as voting citizens want evenhanded representation from Washington between corporate America and local laws and ordinances. The only "chilling effect long into the future" would be "blatant disregard" of the law in Venango County.

— T.N. Thomas  
Kennerdell