

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why has timbering plan become an issue again?

On July 12, 1995, the White Township supervisors reported that township voters, in a survey that the supervisors conducted by mail, had voted resoundingly against selective timbering of White's Woods by a 2-to-1 margin. The supervisors voted "unanimously not to timber the area," because, as they said in the Gazette, "we should support the survey."

What we township voters and taxpayers want to know is why the township manager and supervisors have brought a timbering proposal back up and have spent \$1,500 — they told us on April 11 — without consulting us to obtain a pro-timbering plan from a forester who stands to make money if his plan is enacted.

They were asked this question twice at that meeting, and they did not answer it. We will keep asking it until it is answered, because we elected these supervisors, and they are spending our tax dollars.

After our desire was already very clearly expressed, will they now defy us? We did not elect our supervisors to spend our tax dollars on an already rejected proposal that a strong

majority of us clearly oppose.

I agree with Paul Brown (April 19) that such decisions should be based also on "good science." Here's the consensus of good scientists in recent years, as summarized by Brock Evans in "Chop Now, Pay Later" in the scholarly Forum for Applied Research and Public Policy: "Forests can't be managed as just another agricultural crop, like corn. The interior makeup of forests is much more complex than we had thought. There is more to the science of forestry than logging, a practice that has resulted in heavy nutrient drains on the soil base. If left alone without professional management, forests can restore and heal themselves remarkably well. Great forests can thrive in the absence of foresters."

The trees in White's Woods have been taking good care of themselves for many years. We ask the supervisors to honor — in 2007 and in the future — our clear desire that our woods be left alone for us to enjoy just as they are.

Jim Cahalan
White Township