



June 22, 2026

Re: Opposition to SB 857

Dear Members of the Pennsylvania State Senate:

On behalf of North American Land Trust (NALT), I respectfully express our opposition to SB 857.

As a conservation organization that works with private landowners, government agencies, and local communities to conserve land and natural resources, NALT is concerned that SB 857 would create significant obstacles to the acquisition and donation of land intended for public benefit.

While state agencies should maintain strong communication with county and local governments regarding proposed acquisitions, the additional approval requirements contemplated by SB 857 would add uncertainty, increase transaction costs, and complicate what are already lengthy and complex real estate transactions. These challenges could discourage willing landowners from donating or selling conservation lands and could impede strategic additions to Pennsylvania's State Parks, State Forests, Game Lands, and public fishing and boating access areas.

Pennsylvania's public lands provide substantial recreational, ecological, and economic benefits to residents and visitors alike. We believe the Commonwealth's conservation agencies should retain the ability to work efficiently with willing landowners while remaining responsive to local concerns and priorities.

Thank you for your consideration of our views regarding SB 857.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven W. Carter".

Steven W. Carter
President

cc: Rep. Craig Williams
WeConservePA