

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all of your support with regards to the Granite Pipeline lawsuit. The outpouring of support we have received over the course of the lawsuit makes it clear that you treasure our beautiful Park.

I'm writing to tell you that, after three years, we have decided to withdraw our suit. Financially, we are not in a position to continue, and it doesn't seem right to ask our supporters to contribute further.

This lawsuit was never about obtaining a financial settlement. Our goal was always to advocate for transparency with regards to how the City leased the Parkland to BGE. As you know, no appraisal for the 20 acres of forest destroyed for the project was ever made public, and the price that BGE ultimately paid is considered by most to be extremely low. The City in fact allowed the pipeline to be built before a franchise agreement was even made, which suggests to our group that they were never serious about obtaining appropriate compensation. The citizens of Baltimore deserve better than this. We deserve transparency.

Has our lawsuit made any difference? I suppose we'll see. The old pipeline follows the Gwynns Falls to Spring Gardens where the methane is compressed and stored. The planned replacement pipeline will also need approval and a new franchise agreement, as it will also lead to the destruction of a significant amount of forest. Let's hope that the city does the right thing this time-- obtain an appraisal of the land that will be leased, make that appraisal public, and negotiate in a transparent way with BGE.

The Friends of Gwynns Falls Leakin Park will continue to advocate for the Park. Thank you for being members and supporting our work. Please visit our website to learn about our efforts to protect the Park through the Old Growth Forest Network, and stay tuned for volunteer opportunities and more programming.

Sincerely,

Amy Stump, President,

Friends of GF/LP