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An open letter to the office of Attorney General

Dear Editor:

To Attorney General Corbett,

The people of Packer Township are in receipt of your letter, dated June 23, 2008. In it, the office of the Attorney General informs us that Packer Township resident Mr. Clyde Hinkle requested your office "review" the Packer Township Local Control, Sewage Sludge and Chemical Trespass Ordinance.

According to your letter to us, "[Act 38] authorizes the Office, in its discretion, to file a lawsuit against the municipality if, upon review, the Office believes that the ordinance unlawfully limits or restricts a normal agricultural operation." We write to inform you that the Ordinance was adopted with majority support of the people within Packer Township, via the Township Supervisors, and that therefore, the Ordinance will not be rescinded, and that we will not negotiate away any portion of it.

The ACRE law was drafted and adopted by agribusiness corporate interests, using the legislature as a vehicle, and was not passed to aid family farmers, but agribusiness interests. It is an undemocratic and illegitimate law under a system in which the consent of the people directly affected by such governing decisions is made irrelevant. The Attorney General's office is administering an illegitimate and therefore unconstitutional law, and we refuse to recognize its enforceability.

If the Attorney General's office pursues this matter, please be aware that the Township is reviewing for adoption an amendment to the Ordinance that refuses to recognize that the Attorney General has any jurisdiction within this municipality to enforce a law which runs so contrary to democratic principles.

Additionally, should you determine it to be a matter of state interest to attempt to use the courts to deprive the people of Packer Township of their rights, including a right to self-government, and a healthy environment, any offer to meet with the elected representatives of this community to "negotiate" a voluntary surrender of those rights will be rejected.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Gerhard, Chair, Packer Township

Board of Supervisors

Grover Gerhard, Supervisor, Packer Township

Board of Supervisors

William Swinesburg,

Supervisor, Packer Township

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