



D U R H A M
Open Space & Trails Commission

Durham City-County Planning Department ▪ 101 City Hall Plaza ▪ Durham, NC 27701

October 13, 2008

To: Ellen Reckhow, Chair, Durham County Board of Commissioners
From: Daniel Clever, Chair, Durham Open Space and Trails Commission
Subject: Support of Friends of Hill Forest

As you know, the Hill Demonstration Forest (the Forest) located in northern Durham County is a teaching forest held by North Carolina State University (NCSU) for the main purpose of educating students of forestry within the College of Natural Resources. However, for over 70 years, the Forest has also accommodated general recreation uses. It is a cherished resource for hikers, birders, mountain bikers, dog walkers and equestrians of the northern Durham community.

As you also know, NCSU is considering measures to restrict recreation uses that could include closing the Forest entirely to the public recreational community.

The Durham Open Space and Trails Advisory Commission (DOST) supports the Friends of Hill Forest (FOHF), which is a non-profit organization formed by the community to work with NCSU to address their concerns about recreational use of the Forest, while also supporting NCSU's core objectives.

DOST urges the Durham County Commissioners and County Staff to initiate dialogue with the appropriate NCSU offices in support of FOHF's efforts to keep the Forest accessible for non-motorized recreational use.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about our request.

Sincerely,

Daniel Clever