



CONTACT THESE DECISION-MAKERS

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Personal messages from constituents matter the most. We have developed these talking points for you to use as a guide for when you call these decision-makers. Your voice matters. Thank you for taking action to preserve the only old-growth forest in inner city Indianapolis, the Crown Hill North Woods. To find your legislator visit <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>

- Destroying our country's natural heritage is not an appropriate way to honor our veterans. There are numerous alternative sites, both at Crown Hill Cemetery and elsewhere in Indianapolis, to place this project that would not take a tree, none of which have been examined.
- The Dr. Laura Hare Charitable Trust has offered to purchase these woods from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and protect them in perpetuity as either a park or a nature preserve. The DVA could easily accept the trust's generous offer and place their project elsewhere in Indianapolis.
- The DVA is not following their own protocols. Pursuant to VA Directive 0066 Section 2.3(4)- Sustainable Locations Program requires VA to (i) "Agencies actions should lead by example by working to preserve environmental resources and considering the impact of the siting of Federal facilities on existing natural resource functions or the potential to disrupt efforts to restore or protect local ecosystems or natural resources." (ii.) "Wherever possible, agencies should strive to avoid development of agricultural and other previously undeveloped land."
- Forests biologists Dr. Kemuel Badger, Dr. Donald Ruch, and John Taylor produced an ecological assessment of the woods in which they conclude "all efforts should be made to conserve this example of Indiana's natural heritage." Visit indianaforestalliance.org for the full report.