



The  
**HOLDEN**  
Arboretum

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January 10, 2013

Waite Hill Land Conservancy  
9494 Smith Road  
Waite Hill, OH 44094

Dear WHLC Trustee,

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I am pleased to write to express my appreciation for the great work that has been accomplished by the Waite Hill Land Conservancy, and my confidence that will be carried forward well by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy after the proposed merger takes place.

Having toured the protected land with Brian Sherwin, I am impressed by the age, biological diversity, and ecological quality of its forest. Northeast Ohio is blessed with a good deal of high-quality forestland, of great area and little incursion yet by invasive species, even in the shadow of a major metropolitan area, and the Waite Hill area is a welcome addition to those protected lands. The WRLC's well known record of protecting lands bodes well for the Waite Hill parcels. Of course, truly protecting wildlands requires active, knowledgeable management – to prevent the spread of invasives, pollution-derived changes to soil chemistry, reduction of understory diversity by deer and other factors – and I am confident WRLC and its partners will take an active role in that management, as well as making the forests available for natural history education engaging diverse audiences. The Holden Arboretum looks forward to playing whatever roles would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Clement W. Hamilton, Ph.D.  
President and CEO