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First name: Staci

Last name: Moses

Organization: Anchored Ministries Corp

Title: Executive Director

Comments: Anchored Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit residential recovery program here in Williamsburg. For the last 4 years our residents have been helping an organic farmer on Jellico Creek. Each year our residents have helped her prepare the ground for planting, they have helped plant the seeds, they have pulled weeds, helped plant trees and anything else that she has needed them to help with. Being involved with this farmer, on her farm, in the beautiful mountains has been so beneficial for them. It has helped them spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically. This farmer lives at the bottom of the mountain and could suffer serious consequences to her home, her animals, her farm and her livelihood if this project is allowed to happen the way it has been proposed.

If the mountain is clear cut, that could possibly cause landslides and muddy run off during hard rains that would damage her property. This could also cause the creek to be too muddy keeping her from being able to pump water for irrigation. Also, the use of herbicides could potentially affect her crops as well as her water sources. If this farm suffers from this logging project, it would also affect the residents of Anchored Ministries who greatly benefit from the opportunity to help there. These men and women come into our program broken and hurting from the effects of addiction, from childhood trauma, from abuse and also great regrets for what they have subjected their families and themselves to. Helping her on her farm is a source of therapy for them. For something to happen to this farm because of this project, would be a tragedy.

Thank you.