The CPC is satisfied with the agreements ODOT has made to meet ODOT's goal of leaving the park a better place after their construction. The current partnership between ODOT and the CPC should be celebrated as an example of how two public entities can successfully work through differences to create mutual respect and win-win solutions.

In his inaugural address, President Obama asked us to make a commitment to establishing unity of purpose over conflict and discord; to set aside worn-out dogmas and strangling, stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long that they no longer apply. I was sorry to see that your article — even if well-intended — pulls our community in the opposite direction.

Charlotte Behm
CPC member
Springfield

NOT ABOUT SAFETY

In regards to the letter from Kurt Kamin (1/29) on lead and toxic risks in toys — please, Mr. Kamin and everyone else, do your research. The CPSIA as it is currently written is a terrible law and has far-reaching, unintended consequences. The strict testing requirements that the CPSIA puts into place are not just for mass-produced Chinese toys but also for natural wood and cloth toys made here in America, as well as European imports and all secondhand items. The penalties for not following this law are up to $100,000 fine and five years (felony) prison *per item*.

This law encompasses everything and anything children 12 and under use or come into contact with. It's not just about toys. No more used children's books, no more handmade baby blankets, no more kids' items at Saturday Market. Amazon.com is already demanding certificates for used kids' books (which can't be done). Toys R Us is already pulling stuff from the shelves. If you happen to pick up something they missed, I guess their computer picks it up because the cashiers are instructed to tell people they can't sell it to them (after they're already in line at the register). It's all-encompassing.