

Carol DeSoto

From: Alex Winter <alexbillwinter@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 8, 2024 12:14 PM
To: Carol DeSoto
Subject: To the Charles County Commissioners Against the Aviation Business Park. For the record.

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Sent by email to: DeSotoC@charlescountymd.gov June 8, 2024

To the Charles County Commissioners Against the Aviation Business Park. For the record.

We, the undersigned, oppose the proposed Aviation Business Park at Maryland Airport, and all related rezoning and land use actions related to it. We refer to these actions as the airport expansion.

For many thousands of years Mattawoman Creek has been giving and sustaining life in this region. But in recent years there has been an accelerating trend of bad land use decisions that threaten to snuff out Mattawoman's viability. There is little sign that the Commissioners of Charles County are taking seriously the pending long-term harm from their past and proposed actions.

This is part of a worldwide syndrome that adds up to global climate change. We must do our part to abandon the ways of thinking and doing business that have yielded such terrible results. We hope that you care whether you leave ruins as your legacy.

There are four main reasons that everyone should oppose the airport expansion in general and the Aviation Business Park in particular.

These reasons are as follows:

ONE

The proposed action would result in a significant increase in exposure to lead pollutants, especially affecting children. The air traffic directly affects the children who attend two schools within half a mile.

If one considers the demographics of the nearby community, this is clearly an environmental justice issue. The proposed action constitutes a transfer of wealth from the community, and the

population at large, to the private interests that would profit from the rezoning. Because this is so obvious, the private interests and their allies in government make false representations to the contrary. But the truth is plain: the community gets bad things from the proposed action, such as loss of health and quality of life and property value; and the private interests make money.

TWO

The bad land use decisions leading up this point have put this resource, of supreme value since time immemorial, on the tipping point of irreversible damage. The State and federal agencies have recognized this and have invested in trying to educate the local government on the relevant issues, but local government has been stonewalling. This must stop. No airport expansion action can possibly be justified without full appropriate study.

THREE

Taking such tremendously impactful actions without genuine public participation is contrary to the spirit and letter of state and federal law. Charles County has fought tooth and nail against meaningful public participation. It has taken measures to conceal public information about the enormity of its proposed actions, and failed to make genuine outreach, making all of its actions invalid.

FOUR

The economic justifications have been disproven even by the only consultants that the County has hired who have provided actual facts. The Tech Park rezoning cost the taxpayers \$9 million, but did not benefit the public. There has been no accounting for how much this rezoning will cost. As one of the County's consultants explained, this part of the County does not have the infrastructure to support the industrial and commercial development that is the supposed justification for the airport expansion. The real economic plan here is to make County taxpayers fund infrastructure buildout inevitably resulting in increased residential development that will be increasingly poorly serviced. All the wealth goes to a favorite few.

In sum, please reject this rezoning. The signers are below:

Bonnie Bick
Chapman Forest Foundation

Scott Sewell
Maryland Bass Nation

Alex Winter
Mattawoman Watershed Society

Deanna Wheeler
Nanjemoy-Potomac River Coalition

Dean Naujoks
Potomac Riverkeeper

Jim Lawson
Southern Maryland Fair Skies Coalition

Ongisa Ichile-Mckenzie
Southern Marylanders for Racial Equality