

April 23, 2021

Wayne Magoon, Chair  
Charles County Planning Commission  
200 Baltimore Street  
La Plata, Maryland 20646

***Re: Zoning Map Amendment (ZMA) #20-03; Estate of Julia D. Hungerford;***

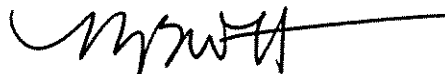
Dear Mr. Magoon:

I am writing to express my support for the applicant's request for a change in zoning in Zoning Map Amendment case #20-03. As a life-long resident of the western side of Charles County, I feel I am uniquely qualified to express my support for this change. I support smart economic development along with reasonable environmental protections. However, I believe that smart development and environmental protections should be considered together as one, not as competing separate interests. We need smart and reasonable accommodations for residents, businesses, and the environment. Smart growth benefits all of us. The homes we all live in, our places of employment, and our recreational venues are all proof of that.

The amendment requested by the petitioner is smart growth. In my 56 years living in this area, I have seen a steady decline in the portion of the county where this property is located, fronting Route 210. We have lost residents and long-term businesses because of the area's state of decline and decay and lack of resources. Most of the children I grew up with in the Bryan's Road area have relocated to other parts of the county where the aesthetic is more pleasing, there are more amenities, more businesses, the crime rate is lower, and there are more opportunities for their children.

While I support reasonable environmental controls and protection, I strongly believe that the request for a change in zoning at this location will not harm the environment. The Resource Protection zone that is already in place on the property will provide more than adequate protection for any environmental concerns that may exist there. In light of these considerations, I am ask you to approve the applicant's request for a zoning map amendment in the above case to benefit the current residents and the future residents of this portion of Charles County.

Sincerely,



Melissa B. Willett, Esq.  
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