THE MOYAONE ASSOCIATION P.O. Box 113 Accokeek, MD 20607 www.moyaone.org

September 10, 2021

The Board of Charles County Commissioners 200 Baltimore Street La Plata, Maryland 20646



Dear Commission President Collins and Commissioners Rucci, Bowling, Coates and Stewart:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Moyaone Association, please record that we are opposed to the proposed airport expansion of the Maryland Airport, in Charles County and to any rezoning of the lands surrounding the Maryland Airport as well as any degrading or lessening of the protections on the sensitive ecosystems around the Mattawoman Creek and the forested lands in and around the Maryland Airport. We ask that the Board of Charles County Commissioners reject the proposed amendment to rezone the Maryland Airport and the lands around it.

The Moyaone Association is the HOA for the Moyaone Reserve, a residential community located across both Charles and Prince George's Counties and situated within the Piscataway National Park. It is an area covered by Federal Scenic Easements for the protection of the historic view shed from George Washington's Mount Vernon. The Moyaone Reserve is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Our objections to the proposed amendment to the Charles County 2016 Comprehensive Plan for the Maryland Airport is based on these concerns: 1) increased noise and air pollution it would cause not simply due to additional flights, but also because of the increased size of the planes that the enlarged Maryland Airport would accommodate; 2) the false premise that the new development would be of benefit to the adjoining community; and 3) the devastating degradation of the protected eco-environment that currently exists.

To the concern on the increased size and number of planes that the proposed enlarged airport runways would accommodate, the Maryland Airport would encourage planes carrying freight – such as Amazon and Federal Express – as well as out of town visitors to the MGM Casino and National Harbor. Being able to by-pass National Airport, with its very busy flight schedules and expensive fees, the change would result an increase in overall flights and the size of aircraft that would in turn generate more air and noise pollution for the surrounding area. Of specific concern is that the two public schools located just down the way from the Maryland Airport would be subjected to higher concentrations of air and noise pollution....two serious disruptive elements to the learning process and the health of the children.

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Another point of our objection is the false equivalency of changing the land around the Maryland Airport from watershed conservation district to an employment and industrial land use. It would not benefit the community or Charles County. Before counting dollars that presently do not exist due to this zoning change, there must be recognition of both the financial and personal investment many people have already made in this area. Currently the rural nature of the existing area provides a quality of life for the residents who call this area home. These nearby residents, and those in the Moyaone Reserve, have selected this area to live and raise their families and don't live here simply due to circumstance but by choice. These people have already made a sizable investment into this community and it should not be marginalized for the profit desires of the Maryland Airport and other outside private financial interests.

Lastly, while the Moyaone Association encourages commercial development for the overall Accokeek-Bryans Road-Indian Head area, that development must be thoughtfully placed so as to not undermine or even destroy those positive aspects of our community. The use of land that is currently set aside and protected due to its bio-diversity and the fragile eco-system of the Mattawoman Creek is too valuable and indispensable to trade out for warehouses, hangers, and imagined commercial uses. This type of trade-off does not benefit the community. There is no real return of investment in the County when a protected environmental area is removed or reduced in size. The 2016 Comprehensive Plan established and protected these sensitive areas for a reason: the long-term vision of having an area that cannot be duplicated and is unique to our County. To disregard the thought, the sentiment, the science, the planning and the time that went into making the watershed conservation district, is short-sighted.

The Charles County Commission needs to stand firm with residents of this area and reject the proposed changes to the 2016 Comprehensive Plan involving the Maryland Airport and the lands adjoining and abutting it.

Sincerely,

Rose Kim

President, Moyaone Association moyaonepresident@gmail.com