

6115 Antioch Road
Haymarket VA 20169

October 7, 2015

Ms. Michelle Holland
Virginia Department of Transportation
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

Subject: *Study of Park and Ride Alternative Sites near I-66 and Route 15, Haymarket*

Dear Ms. Holland:

In response to John Muse's letter dated August 10, 2015, I would like to bring to your attention a few facts about my farm and the history of this farm in Prince William County. My farm was purchased in 1935 by my father and has been farmed continuously since that time. We have raised cattle, hogs, crops, three daughters and a son, and enough fresh garden produce to see us through every winter since. My wife and I have been good and faithful stewards of our land, being very aware of the environmental impact on the headwaters of Bull Run. We have installed livestock exclusion fencing best management practices for natural resources conservation, and routinely renew our water quality and nutrient management conservation plan with the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District. We have participated in the Western Prince William Farm Tour and invite folks to come to our farm for fresh produce. We are good citizens, good farmers and good neighbors.

We are here for the long haul. It has always been our intention to farm this land and pass it on to our children to farm when the time comes. This is not a short term project, or a wait until the real estate market is ripe to sell the land for a big profit. This is our livelihood. Farming is our passion, our joy and our pleasure. Feeding ourselves and our neighbors is what we do. It is also what we do well.

Our farm is in the Rural Crescent, affording us protection from massive development that has been forced onto this formerly, mostly farming community. We have abided by the rules of the Rural Crescent even though that designation puts limitations on our property rights. Locating a PARK AND RIDE LOT is inconsistent with the Prince William County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances.

I assure you that you can't imagine the shock and dismay at the receipt of the letter from you that our beloved farm and home has been identified as a potential location for a PARK AND RIDE LOT.

Your letter states "These studies do not mean that transportation improvements on your property are imminent or that a decision on the improvements has been made." It is apparent that VDOT has chosen **our land** for a PARK AND RIDE LOT, as it is clear on the transform66 website that VDOT has **sent the plan that includes our land for the PARK AND RIDE LOT to the Commonwealth Transportation Board as THE PREFERRED PLAN.** Additionally, there is a public hearing scheduled on October 28th where this plan will be considered by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

How is it we became THE PREFERRED PLAN prior to any studies being undertaken, any communication with me, the landowner, or any serious consideration of alternative sites? How is it that there can be a public hearing when the affected landowner is totally in the dark about this entire project?

My wife and I have fully cooperated with your wetlands consultants, archeological study consultants, and soil study consultants. In speaking with these consultants it has become very clear that you are not studying the available and appropriate alternative sites. Anyone looking at the immediate area surrounding the I-66 intersection would realize this truth.

There may be a temptation on VDOT's part, in order to save money, **to focus on the taking of a working family farm rather than land in the hands of absentee owners who are speculating on future development.**

I request a meeting with you to receive all the facts and details about this project and how it would affect our property. I want to know how the preferred plan got to this point of a public hearing on October 28 at the Commonwealth Transportation Board without the knowledge of the landowner that would be affected. What is the legal requirement for notification to an affected landowner's property?

I hereby register the strongest objections possible for inclusion of The Cedars Farm land being used for this project. I want to know specifically why the J. Cavelli property north of route 66 and west of Heathcote Boulevard, Midwood, south of Route 55, and other open spaces further west on the route 55 corridor are excluded from consideration. I request a meeting as quickly as possible. Please respond via email with dates certain when we can meet.

Carlton V. Heflin

cc: Delegate David Ramadan
DeDRamadan@house.virginia.gov