



Maryland Department of Planning

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

November 3, 2011

Richard Eberhart Hall
Secretary

Matthew J. Power
Deputy Secretary

Candice Quinn Kelly, President
Charles County Commissioners
200 Baltimore Avenue
P.O. Box 2150
La Plata, MD 20646

Dear Commissioner Kelly:

I am writing in reference to your October 24, 2011 letter regarding the proposed Cross County Connector for Charles County (CCC). This has obviously been an important and ongoing conversation in the County, one with many components.

While the road extension is proposed to serve some areas located within the County's Priority Funding Area (PFA), it will also serve areas and have impacts outside of the PFA. (In 2010, there were 213 residential units developed on 1,282 acres of land outside the County's PFA). The CCC has the potential to result in the proliferation of this type and level of low density development, which is contrary to the State's smart growth policies and the planning visions. There is also the issue of diverting funding and market from the current core development and redevelopment areas of the County.

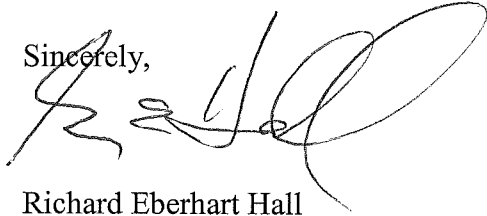
The proposed CCC will also impact the Mattawoman Creek watershed, including its high quality aquatic habitat, associated riparian wetlands, essential headwater and recharge areas, and other sensitive habitats within the watershed. Even with standard approaches to watershed mitigation, or even typical advanced measures, we believe the current resource value of the Mattawoman will be adversely affected. These potential impacts to wetlands and sensitive Tier II watersheds raise significant concerns.

We believe there are other approaches to land use, transportation and economic development that are more beneficial to the County, more consistent with smart growth policies and that have significantly less impact from an economic and environmental perspective. We stand ready to work with you and your fellow commissioners to explore such approaches.

Candice Quinn Kelly
November 3, 2011
Page Two

If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 767-4510.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Eberhart Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Richard Eberhart Hall