

July 10, 2007

The Hon. Frances Morgan, President
The Hon. Rusty Morgan, Vice President
The Hon. Dale Manuel, Commissioner
The Hon. Jim Surkamp, Commissioner
The Hon. Greg Corliss, Commissioner
Jefferson County Commission
124 E. Washington Street
Charles Town, WV 25414

Via Fax: 304.725.7916

Dear President Morgan and Members of the Commission:

We represent organizations and businesses that collectively represent thousands of members, residents, and customers in the area. We are united in strongly opposing the petition to the Jefferson County Commission to rezone the Old Standard Quarry for 2 million square feet of commercial/office/flex space. Allowing the equivalent of more than 13 Wal-Mart's worth of commercial space in the heart of historic eastern Jefferson County would take us in the wrong direction, and conflicts with the goals of the county comprehensive plan.

Currently, 80 acres of Old Standard Quarry is zoned "Residential Growth," which would allow high density residential use including construction of up to 1600 housing units. The remaining approximately 330 acres of the quarry tract is zoned "Rural" and would allow up to 33 housing units. We believe the designation as "Residential Growth" was a serious mistake and inconsistent with the county comprehensive plan. We support down-zoning those 80 acres as "Rural" to be consistent with the county comprehensive plan.

For decades, local and national interests have worked together to protect America's Civil War, civil rights, and industrial history at Harpers Ferry. As a result of our collective efforts, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park now includes 3,745 protected acres in a landscape that is, according to Thomas Jefferson (in *Notes on the State of Virginia*), "worth a voyage across the Atlantic."

Every federal dollar invested in America's national parks generates on average four dollars of value in the economy, according to a report released in November 2006 by the National Parks Conservation Association. Approximately 300,000 people visit Harpers Ferry National Historical Park each year, which generates over \$32 million in value to the area economy.

The lands at risk have significant historical character related to the siege and defense of Harpers Ferry in 1862. The lands at risk lie in the view shed of Bolivar

Heights, the Murphy Farm, School House Ridge, and other areas of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

Rezoning for commercial use would allow incompatible, intensive development on these historic lands, undermining the millions of dollars in federal, state, and private investments made to preserve historic lands for this and future generations. Incompatible development on such a scale would generate significant traffic congestion and could make Harpers Ferry National Historical Park much less attractive to heritage and recreational tourists, who today provide an ongoing boost to the region's economy. In sum, the proposed rezoning for commercial use would be poor public policy.

Clearly, America's history and existing heritage- and recreation-based tourism at Harpers Ferry are critically threatened. We look forward to working with you, park officials, and other community leaders to resolve this threat in favor of the region's and the park's long-term interests.

Sincerely,

Civil War Preservation Trust
Jim Campi
Director of Policy and Communications
Washington, DC

Harpers Ferry, Mayor
Dr. James Addy
Harpers Ferry, WV

Eastern Deanery of Episcopal Churches
Bob DuBose
President
Harpers Ferry, WV

Happy Retreat Estate
William G. Gavin
Owner
Charles Town, WV

Frederick County Family YMCA
Eric Ireland
Executive Director of Programs
Frederick, MD

Historic Hilltop House Hotel
Annette Gavin
Marketing Director
Harpers Ferry, WV

Friends of Harpers Ferry National
Historical Park
Scot & Vicki Faulkner
President
Harpers Ferry, WV

Historical River Tours
Eric Neilson
President
Harpers Ferry, WV

Harpers Ferry Conservancy
Paul M. Rosa
Executive Director
Harpers Ferry, WV

Jason's Antiques
Robert Hardy
Owner
Harpers Ferry, WV

Jefferson County Preservation Alliance to
Save Our Heritage
Carol Gallant
President
Harpers Ferry, WV

Jefferson County NAACP
George Rutherford
President
Ranson, WV

Kinexum LLC
G. Alexander Fleming, M.D.
President and CEO
Harpers Ferry, WV

Marmion House Gifts
Charles & Charlotte Thompson
Owners
Harpers Ferry, WV

Mount Zion United Methodist Church
Dr. Thomas N. Connar
Senior Minister
Highland, MD

National Parks Conservation Association
Joy M. Oakes
Senior Director, Mid-Atlantic Region
Washington, DC

National Trust for Historic Preservation
Rob Nieweg
Director, Southern Field Office
Washington, DC

Sleepy Creek Tree Farm B&B
Kerry F. Noon
Owner
Berkeley Springs, WV

Stanton, Inc.
Don Stanton
Owner
Harpers Ferry, WV

The Angler's Inn
Deborah Kelly
Owner
Harpers Ferry, WV

The Carriage Inn Bed & Breakfast
Marie & Don Davis
Owners
Charles Town, WV

The Manor Inn
Ellen & Wesley Lewis
Owners
Berkeley Springs, WV

The Jackson Rose Bed & Breakfast
Deborah & Phillip Hale
Owners
Harpers Ferry, WV

The Outfitters at Harpers Ferry
Laura Clark
President
Harpers Ferry, WV

The Washington House Inn
Mel & Nina Vogel
Owners
Charles Town, WV

Unique Jewelry
Kim E. Prehn
President
Westminster, MD

Westwind Potters
Jane Murto
Manager
Harpers Ferry, WV