



SassafRAS River Association

P.O. Box 333
Georgetown, MD 21930
www.sassafRASriver.org

July 25, 2008

Honorable Kent County Commissioners
400 High Street
Chestertown, MD 21620

Dear Commissioners:

It has come to our attention that there is a proposal to convert the Alexander Farm on Maryland Route 299 north of Massey, Maryland, into a "construction and debris 'rubble fill.'" A copy of the information we currently have on the proposal, a "Fiscal Impact Analysis [of the] Kent Reclamation [sic] & Recycling Facility, Massey, Kent County, Maryland" prepared by The Greenlee Group, Inc. (and dated June 13, 2008), is enclosed.

While our current knowledge of the specifics of the proposal is limited to the Greenlee Group analysis, we are concerned that the proposed site – currently used as a sand and gravel pit – lies in the headwaters of the SassafRAS River. Specifically, the site stands between the headwaters of Jacobs and Swantown Creeks, both fragile tributaries of the SassafRAS. The proposal to use such an environmentally sensitive site as a dumping ground for "wood, metal, bricks . . . and masonry, cement and concrete, glass, singles and roofing material, plaster and plasterboard, carpets, floor and wall tile, asphalt, insulation material, pipes, wires, and appliances, and debris derived from land clearing operations, such as tree stumps, root mats, brush and limbs, logs, topsoil, vegetation . . . rock . . . paper or cardboard packaging, spacing or building materials . . . paint containers, caulk containers, or glaze containers" appears wholly inconsistent with Kent County's stated commitment to the preservation of its natural resources.

It is remarkable that such a proposal would surface in Kent County after a similar proposal for the Unicorn Lake area of Queen Anne's County – which feeds Kent County's Chester River -- was so soundly rejected by the Maryland Legislature. The negative effects of a rubble fill on ground water and surface waters which feed the already impaired SassafRAS River (where the County is working on strategies to offset those impairments) could be similarly grave.

We want to convey to you our deep reservations about this proposal as we currently understand it. We ask that your staff keep the SassafRAS River

Association and the residents of the Sassafras River watershed informed of any formal filings if the proposal should move forward.

Sincerely,


Kascie Herron
Sassafras **RIVERKEEPER**


John Vail
President

Enclosure

cc: Honorable E.J. Pipkin
Maryland Senate

Honorable Richard Sossi
Maryland House of Delegates

Honorable Mary Roe Walkup
Maryland House of Delegates

Honorable Richard Smigiel
Maryland House of Delegates

Honorable Wayne Gilchrest, Member
U.S. House of Representatives

Honorable Shari Wilson, Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment

Honorable John Griffin, Secretary
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Honorable Douglas Gansler
Attorney General of the State of Maryland

Kevin Hemstock, Editor
Kent County News