

Sully District Council of Citizens Associations



P.O. Box 230042
Sully Station, VA 20120-0042

Joint Sully District Land Use and Transportation Committee Resolution on Prince William Data Centers Expansion

WHEREAS the Joint Sully District Land Use and Transportation Committee (the “Joint Committee”), comprised of members of the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations (“SDCCA”) and West Fairfax County Citizens Association (“WFCCA”), recognizes the paramount importance of protecting environmental and historic resources as essential to the quality of life in Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS the Joint Committee recognizes that land use policy decisions are regional, and that the impacts of land use decisions in one county are not limited to the areas within that jurisdiction’s borders; and

WHEREAS the SDCCA is the umbrella organization for homeowner and civic associations in the Sully magisterial district of Fairfax County, adjacent to the Loudoun and Prince William County lines, and advocates for citizen engagement in land use and transportation decisions, including policies protecting environmental and historic resources; and

WHEREAS the WFCCA is an umbrella organization representing multiple homeowner and civic associations in the western corner of Fairfax County, adjacent to Bull Run and the Manassas National Battlefield Park; and

WHEREAS the Joint Committee membership includes multiple homeowner and civic associations located within the Residential Conservation (R-C) zoning district, downzoned by Fairfax County in 1982, limiting both residential density and nonresidential

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development, and minimizing the detrimental effects of additional impervious surface, for the protection of water quality in the Occoquan Watershed, protecting forest resources, including threatened and endangered species, and maintaining the low density rural character of the area, similar in many ways to the nearby “Rural Crescent” in Prince William County; and

WHEREAS the Sully District includes valuable forest resources, including the largest stand in Virginia of a globally rare oak-hickory forest on diabase soil, and including the Fairfax County Park Authority’s Sully Woodlands, and portions of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority’s Bull Run Regional Park; and

WHEREAS the Manassas National Battlefield Park is multijurisdictional, and the eastern portion of the park lies within Fairfax County, in the Sully magisterial district, and also within Joint Committee’s boundary; and

WHEREAS the Joint Committee has been made aware that Prince William County is considering the adoption of a comprehensive plan amendment to expand the permitted areas for intensified nonresidential development, including a data centers use and other industrial uses, on certain parcels in proximity to the Manassas National Battlefield Park, currently in agricultural and low density use, which proposed amendment may have significant interjurisdictional impacts on the environment, transportation and quality of life; and

WHEREAS the Joint Committee strongly support facilitation of citizen and community engagement and participation in the development and amendment of local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances, affecting quality of life throughout Northern Virginia; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Joint Committee opposes the Prince William County proposal to expand the permissible areas for the data center and industrial uses, and to allow intensified nonresidential development in proximity to the Manassas National

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Battlefield Park, on land currently in agricultural and low density uses, as inconsistent with environmental policy for protection of the Occoquan Watershed, including water quality and protection of nearby forest ecosystem resources, including endangered and threatened species; inconsistent with the preservation of valuable and irreplaceable historic resources; likely to bring detrimental impacts to an already congested transportation network; and inconsistent with the preserving the rural character of the area surrounding the Manassas National Battlefield Park, in both Fairfax and Prince William counties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Committee requests that the Prince William County Board of Supervisors direct its staff to promptly notify the Joint Committee upon authorization for advertising of any proposed comprehensive plan amendment affecting properties adjacent to the Manassas National Battlefield, or in proximity to the Fairfax County line, between the Route 28 bridge and the Loudoun County line, recognizing the interjurisdictional impacts caused by policy changes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be communicated forthwith to the Prince William County Board of Supervisors and Prince William County Planning Commission, with copies to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the Fairfax County Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC), as well as Senator Mark Warner, Senator Tim Kaine, Representatives Gerry Connolly and Jennifer Wexton, Virginia Senator Dave Marsden, Delegates Dan Helmer and Karrie Delaney and officials of the National Park Service (NPS).

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The Joint Committee approved this resolution at its 21 February 2022 meeting:

Submitted by:

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Distribution:

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Fairfax County Planning Commission

Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council

Prince William County Board of Supervisors

Prince William County Planning Commission

US Senators Kaine and Warner

US Representatives Beyer, Connolly, and Wexton

Virginia Delegates and Senators

Superintendent Manassas National Battlefield Park, NP

Area Director, Region 1, National Capital Area, NPS

Regional Director Region 1, Northeast, NPS

Director, NPS

Secretary, Department of the Interior

SDCCA Members

WFCCA Members

Note that this document is posted at

http://www.sullydistrict.org/resolutions/20220221_JSDLU&TCResolutionPrinceWilliamDataCentersExpansion.pdf