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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 11, 2012

The Honorable Sharon Bulova
Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
12000 Government Center Pkwy Ste 530
Fairfax VA 22035

Dear Chairman Bulova,
Sharon

In recent weeks, a number of my constituents have approached me to share their concern about the potential construction of a major arterial road through a Fairfax County-designated environmental “Resource Protection Area” that constitutes what the neighbors refer to as the last remaining forest in Tysons. My staff toured the area with constituents yesterday and I share their concerns about the county potentially destroying a historic forest.

While I recognize that Tysons will continue to be a major hub of commerce for our region, the living standards of area residents should be taken into account when planning future transportation projects. In addition, this area is home to land originally owned by Lord Fairfax, including the historic Ash Grove House, built in 1790. Land and buildings with this historical value should be preserved for future generations to enjoy and not be abutted by a large road carrying thousands of cars.

It is my understanding that you, too, have toured the wooded area in question and acknowledged that Preferred Option 3 brings considerable risks. Not only would this option affect a stream that handles significant amounts of storm water run-off, but a major arterial road would significantly decrease the living standards in numerous neighborhoods.

I understand that Fairfax County is required to consider viable alternatives as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study. Even if the so-called “Preferred Option 3” is feasible to construct, it would effectively make hundreds of homes unlivable, as a major arterial route in close proximity would subject them to nearly non-stop noise. In addition, the neighborhoods that are objecting to this option have several schools that serve a large number of children that are currently able to walk to class. A major arterial route close to their homes could make the neighborhoods less safe for these children as well as pedestrians walking to the new Silver Line Metro stations.

Although you may be required to study this option for the NEPA process, I believe that you and the other members of the board can publically assure these residents that it will be unconditionally rejected when the county makes its final determination on new access points into Tysons. The problems associated with this option - including the effects on the creek running

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through the forest and the possible safety implication for the residents of these neighborhoods - far outweigh the benefits.

I urge the board to assure these residents that, while Preferred Option 3 may have to be considered, it will never advance as an option in future planning of Tysons infrastructure.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

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This is important.

Time to

act