

TOWN OF HERNDON



Steve DeBenedittis
Mayor

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May 4, 2011

VIA EMAIL

Charles D. Snelling, Chairman
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
1 Aviation Circle
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairman Snelling:

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully express the Town of Herndon's concern and disappointment with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) Board of Directors decision on April 6, 2011 to construct the Metrorail Station at Dulles International Airport underground and the decision to use a mandatory Project Labor Agreement.

The Town of Herndon is very concerned regarding these decisions and the potential impact the additional cost these alternatives will have on our taxpayers. The tunnel alternative at Dulles International Airport is estimated to cost \$330 million more than an aerial location. The Town cannot support funding the additional cost of the tunnel alternative through increased tolls or taxes when a suitable, much less expensive alternative can be constructed. If MWAA chooses to go forward with the underground tunnel, it should be fully responsible for funding the additional cost of the 'betterment' without funding from Fairfax or Loudoun Counties, the Commonwealth or the Dulles Toll Road. The increased burden for this cost should not be placed on the taxpayers or users of the Toll Road.

The Town requests that MWAA reconsider its decision and go forward with the aerial alternative, thereby saving taxpayers approximately \$330 million dollars and showing taxpayers it is concerned with how state and local dollars are spent. MWAA must be prudent in keeping the toll rates, project engineering and construction costs as low as possible.

We believe that MWAA Board of Directors should be working directly with the funding partners ~ Fairfax and Loudoun Counties and the Commonwealth ~ and not independently. We are in agreement with Fairfax and Loudoun Counties that the decisions made concerning the Metrorail should be placed in the hands of all principals and not simply MWAA.

Charles D. Snelling, Chairman
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May 4, 2011
Page Two

In maintaining the cost control and potential cost impacts to toll road users, the Town of Herndon also requests that MWAA reconsider use of a *mandatory* Project Labor Agreement. The Project Labor Agreement for Phase 2 may add additional costs to the project and thereby costs to the users of the Toll Road. Any positive benefits of the *mandatory* Phase 2 Project Labor Agreement can be achieved through other means.

Metrorail is the best alternative in the Dulles Corridor to provide efficient transportation service to the area. The Town of Herndon looks forward to its arrival in the most cost-effective manner possible to our taxpayers.

Sincerely,



Steve DeBenedittis
Mayor

- c. Members of the Herndon Town Council
- Members of the Herndon Planning Commission
- Arthur A. Anselene, Town Manager
- Lynn Hampton, President & CEO, MWAA