

JENNIFER WEXTON
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS,
AND RELATED PROGRAMS

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

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January 25, 2022

Prince William Board of County Supervisors
1 County Complex Court
Prince William, Virginia 22191

Dear Members of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors:

I write regarding Comprehensive Plan Amendment #CPA2021-00004, also known as the PW Digital Gateway, which would replan over 2,100 acres of land along Pageland Lane in Western Prince William County. I am concerned that this proposal would have a significant negative impact on the surrounding environment and community, including Manassas National Battlefield Park and many of my constituents who live nearby.

On December 3, 2021 then-Superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park (the Park), Brandon Bies, submitted formal letters to the Board of Supervisors (the Board) and the Prince William County Planning Office outlining the Park's serious concerns with the project and its potential to cause irreversible harm to the historic areas in and around the Park. He assessed that the proposal "is the single greatest threat to Manassas National Battlefield Park in nearly three decades" and that the experience the Park provides "could be forever changed" should the proposal be approved. Specifically, the Superintendent pointed out that the proposal could have a detrimental impact on historic sites, structures, and hallowed grounds surrounding the park as well as impact on the Park's "historic viewsheds and rural character." He further expressed concern about the effect of increased traffic, noise pollution, deforestation, and the "degradation of park streams and water quality."

I share the Superintendent's concerns regarding the welfare of the Park, and the surrounding environment, ecosystems, and communities, and I urge you to judiciously and cautiously take the potentially irreversible negative effects into consideration when examining this proposal. During my time in Congress, I have worked to protect America's public lands and waters, including Manassas National Battlefield Park, which serve as key recreational spaces and economic drivers as well as habitats for numerous animals and plant species and important contributors to overall water quality here in the Commonwealth of Virginia and across the country. As such, my office has been closely monitoring the proposal's federal nexus with the National Park Service and other relevant federal agencies as well as its potential impact on my constituents.

As you hear from stakeholders and community members in the coming weeks, I urge you to take these concerns into account and act to protect this unique and important resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Wexton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress