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January 12, 2021

Phyllis Randall
Chair, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
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Caleb Clay Kershner
Supervisor, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
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Dear Chair Randall and Supervisor Kershner:

We are writing to express our concern about the decision that will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at its January 13, 2021 meeting on next steps on the disposition of 16.389 acres in the historic village of St. Louis and 6.31 acres in the historic village of Aldie (Item 03, BOS agenda).

We ask that the decision on the disposition be delayed until Aldie and St. Louis residents and the County staff have sufficient time to fully review and comment on the disposition.

The proposed transaction is complex. It is made more so by the pairing of the purchase of the St. Louis property with the disposition of the Aldie property. That pairing is unfortunate in that it combines two otherwise unrelated situations into one very complex transaction and has the effect of pitting St. Louis residents against Aldie residents.

Our concerns, as an unincorporated historic Village, are mainly procedural. We believe historic Villages should have a say about significant transactions that affect the Village's environment, historical resources, and the nature of the Village. By rushing through this very complex transaction, we are concerned that the voices of Aldie residents have not been heard on these issues and further that the County has not had time to review the historical and environmental impacts on the Village. Further, pairing Aldie and St. Louis complicates any review. These are not good precedents for Waterford or any of the other historic Villages.

Quoting the County's General 2040 Plan:

“Rural Villages are important historic settlements that possess significant heritage, cultural, social, and economic assets that contribute to the character of the Rural Policy Area.” (Loudoun 2040 General Plan Chapter 2 – 214.)

Aldie is one of your Rural Villages, as are Philomont, St Louis, Bluemont, Lincoln, and Waterford, villages currently dealing with multiple threats to their historic landscape.

We look forward to the public hearing on January 13, 2021. We want to work together to protect our Loudoun County Heritage, especially our rural historic villages.

Sincerely,

Ray Daffner

President, Waterford Citizens Association