

Dear Supervisors Connolly, Foust and Hyland:

I support completing two spectacularly scenic segments of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, at Ft. Belvoir and Madeira School.

**FORT BELVOIR:** The trail should follow the remote and scenic route through the Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge, close to the Potomac River and Pohick Creek—and NOT parallel the busy Route 1. This scenic route is far from the sensitive areas on the site. The Ft. Belvoir trails already open to the public are closer to those sites and have posed no security risks to date. Its costs are insignificant, since the trails already exist and can be opened with volunteer labor. Ft. Belvoir's cost estimate for its proposed alternative route along Route 1 is \$6 million, for which there is no funding.

**MADEIRA SCHOOL:** The trail should be routed to allow countywide connectivity. This can be done while staying well away from school facilities, as has been done successfully at the Girl Scout's Camp Crowell over in the Hunter Valley area on the Cross County Trail. The ideal Madeira route proceeds from Great Falls National Park down Difficult Run, onto the Madeira School property to follow the Potomac shoreline downriver. The trail then needs to turn inland along the Madeira School property's eastern boundary to emerge on Georgetown Pike. This is a crucial point—the trail cannot terminate at the river since it would dead-end there. The trail must reach Georgetown Pike near Spring Hill Road, the only egress allowing a future connection to Scotts Run Nature Preserve.

These two trails will be a treasure for generations to come.