

Odenton, MD 21113

February 6, 2023

Governor Wes Moore
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

Re: **Stopping development of the Chesapeake Terrace Rubble Landfill (CTRL) in Odenton**

Dear Governor Moore:

I need your help to finally stop the permitting process for the proposed CTRL, which presents several unacceptable risks to the safety of the residents of Two Rivers and other nearby homes.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is apparently close to issuing a state Refuse Disposal Permit for the CTRL. MDE has scheduled a Phase V Public Hearing for February 23rd in Annapolis.

The CTRL developer, National Waste Managers (NWM), first proposed this rubble landfill project over 35 years ago in 1988. Local residents and Anne Arundel County (AAC) have been trying to stop this development project ever since.

Most recently in 2020, Stuart Pittman tried to use his authority, as the County Executive, to stop MDE's permitting process. His efforts were overturned in 2021 after NWM appealed his directive to the Maryland Circuit Courts.

Although CTRL is contrary to the public interest, it appears that Maryland's environmental laws and court decisions will allow MDE to issue the state environmental permit, despite the obvious risks to the safety of the nearby residents.

I am a resident of the Two Rivers residential development. The development presently consists of ~1800 homes. When construction is completed in 2025, there will be 2060 homes. Some of the homes in Two Rivers are literally next door to the CTRL, a mere 250 feet away. All of the homes within Two Rivers are within two miles of the massive CTRL.

Two Rivers is a peninsular community that is accessible by a single, narrow country road (Conway Rd). MDE has approved NWM's Phase III development plan despite the fact that it is impossible for NWM to access the CTRL through the "assumed entrance" in their development drawings. An elementary school is presently under construction at the *assumed entrance*. NWM has included some "alternate entrances" to the CTRL in their Phase III plan. The *alternate entrances* were specifically excluded by the Special Exceptions that were set forth by the AAC Board of Appeals (BOA) in 1993 due to concerns about public safety. In the ensuing 30 years since the BOA decision, NWM has failed to acquire the fee simple access required for the *assumed entrance*, the only entrance that was approved by the BOA. It is surprising to me that MDE can issue a state permit when the developer cannot secure an approved access route.

In 2009, MDE issued the Maryland Historic Landfill Initiative for the US EPA. That document recommended a target distance of 4 miles from any landfill to residents to prevent harm from airborne gaseous and particulate emissions. In January, the Wall Street Journal reported on a landfill fire in

Alabama that has been burning for over two months. The close proximity of Two Rivers to the CTRL presents an unacceptable health risk from airborne emissions.

There are historic areas next door to the CTRL including the towns of Woodwardville (1872) and Wilson Town (1884). The St. John's AME Zion Church has origins back to the 1800s. Their parishioners included Quakers and supporters of the underground railroad. The residents and visitors to these historic areas rely on wellwater from the two aquifers that underly the CTRL. Although protective measures are included in the design of the CTRL, these measures cannot permanently eliminate the risk of contamination to the drinking water *forevermore*.

As the Governor of Maryland, perhaps you have the authority to direct MDE to deny the state's Refuse Disposal Permit for the CTRL on the grounds of unacceptable risks to public safety.

As the Governor of Maryland, you may also be able to direct the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to revoke their recent extension of the federal permit, on the grounds that the CTRL is contrary to the public interest. [See 33 CFR 325.8 (b) (2)].

The USACE extended their federal permit on 6/3/2022 without scheduling a Public Comment period. The grassroots Two Rivers Residents – Landfill Opposition Committee has also learned that the USACE is unable to find a copy of the original permit that they issued in 1991. I find it hard to believe that the USACE can extend a permit when they have no knowledge of the contents and conditions of the original permit.

Governor Moore, in the overriding interest of public safety, I fervently hope that you will support my request to permanently stop the CTRL and end this 35-year-old nightmare.

Very respectfully yours,