



Tuesday, 29 January 2019

Ms. Heather Lowe  
MDTA  
2310 Broening Highway  
Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Dear Ms. Lowe:

This comes to express strong opposition to the construction across Chesapeake Bay of a bridge that will land in Kent County.

The economic benefits of such a proposed span may seem clear to those who live and work near the western terminus of such a bridge, and they may appear equally obvious to those who operate non-farming commercial enterprises on the Eastern Shore and in Delaware. The true costs of benefits allegedly provided by such a bridge are most clearly evident however to those unseen by the investors and business people at either end of the proposed bridge- the people, and their neighbors, whose farms and lives will be destroyed in the completion of such a project,.


Economic benefits projected in the business plan for this bridge will come at the cost of the destruction of thousands of acres of some of the best farmland in North America. Economic benefits projected in the business plan for this bridge will come at the cost of significant disturbance of an already stressed natural and economic resource of incalculable value- Chesapeake Bay itself. Economic benefits projected in the business plan for this bridge will come at a cost truly borne only by those who lose their farms and livelihoods in the completion of such a project. The builders of the bridge will make back their investments, and their long-term profits are assured. The commercial interests at either end of the span will grow rich because of it. They lose nothing. The landowners will lose a way of life, and the farming culture of the Eastern Shore will be irreparably diminished.

Any argument suggesting that adequate compensation can and will be offered in exchange for land and buildings seized in the imminent domain is naive; there is no

way to pay money for lost agricultural vocations and the displacement of farming families, and there is no way to legitimately suppress an old farming culture for the sake of a new thoroughfare. Logic suggesting that a greater good is served by the permanent inconvenience of the landowners, the watermen and those who work the upper Bay, and the residents of the Eastern Shore affected by such a bridge, is specious.

If greater access to the Eastern Shore is needed by commercial and tourist interests, please consider modifying the existing Bay Bridge- the thruway and infrastructure to serve it are already in place, and the non-monetary yet viable cost-effectiveness of such a renovation plan includes the preservation of land and a farming culture that Maryland can and should be proud to preserve.

Thank you for attending to this letter.

  
CC Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin, United States Senate

The Honorable Christopher J. Van Hollen, Jr., United States Senate

The Honorable Andrew Harris, MD, United States House of Representatives