



March 8, 2011

Dear Board of Education Members:

My name is Dolores Milmo and I am testifying on behalf of the Audubon Naturalist Society, headquartered in Chevy Chase. We are here today to protest the controversial way in which the process of deciding the future of your 20 acres on Brickyard Rd. has been managed. The lack of public notice and transparency does not speak well for a County that prides itself on inclusive process and public input. We only learned of this soccer field proposal and the rush to oust 31-year tenant and farmer, Nick Maravell five days ago. ANS has since learned that Park and Planning staff urged the Executive's representatives to reach out to the Brickyard community regarding this controversial plan over one year ago. That never happened.

Mr. Maravell is a nationally recognized organic farmer growing non-genetically modified heritage seeds. His ouster flies in the face of current County efforts to expand local and organic agriculture, environmental stewardship, and watershed protection.

The impacts of six to seven soccer fields, which require 60 parking spaces each, on this residential neighborhood and its watershed raise significant compatibility issues.

We respectfully urge you to take a closer look at this proposed transfer of land use and extend Mr. Maravell's lease while the issues of impacts are being studied.

Respectfully,

Dolores Milmo  
Maryland Conservation Advocate/