

**LOCCA/PELT**

Lake Ridge Occoquan Coles Civic Association  
of Prince William County, Virginia  
Planning, Environmental, Land-Use, and Transportation Committee  
P.O. Box 204  
Occoquan, Virginia 22125

**LOCCA**

Earl Cunard, President  
Jack Kooyoomjian, Vice President  
Kathleen Harding, Secretary  
Jan Johnson, Treasurer

**PELT**

Tom Burrell, Chairman  
Steve Hopkins, Occoquan District Vice Chairman  
Vic Bras, Coles District Vice Chairman

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September 29, 2005

To Whom it May Concern:

We would like to offer support to the efforts of the Prince William Conservation Alliance (PWCA) for preservation of Merrimac Farm in a permanent Conservation Easement or otherwise guarantee that it remain in a condition to protect the waters of Virginia, as well as to preserve the rural landscape, wildlife habitat, and remain a significant site of bluebells in the Northern Virginia region. We support the PWCA efforts to obtain a Grant or other support mechanism to preserve and manage this significant site.


There are many reasons for the Merrimac Farm to remain in the proper hands to assure its wise preservation and management, and we highlight some of these benefits below:

- The site has over one mile of Cedar Run, through the property,
- It has non-tidal wetlands and vernal pools which support significant wildlife and diversity,
- It is a significant site of bluebells in Northern Virginia,
- It is contiguous with Occoquan Forest and the Quantico Marine Base, and the Cedar Run Wetland Mitigation Bank, which means that the contiguous land area to support wildlife habitat, cleanse the waterways of Cedar Run and the waterways feeding Occoquan are much larger and should remain the significantly functional ecosystem because of this connectivity,
- It's preservation is entirely consistent with the U.S. Department of Defense goal of maintaining and improving significant buffers around military bases for improved security and to be good neighbors with the surrounding communities,
- It is on the upper reaches of the waterway system, near the head waters, or in mid-stream of the upper reaches of waterways feeding into the Occoquan Reservoir, which is a water supply for over one million Northern Virginia's citizens,
- The non-tidal forested wetlands is a category of land-use that is rapidly disappearing and in need of significant protection and other proactive measures, especially near strategically located sites, such as the Merrimac Farm,
- There are exceptional wildlife observation opportunities, for our regions' school children, and
- This is a great opportunity that could slip through everyone's hands if the proper measures are not taken in a timely fashion.

We the undersigned, strongly support the efforts of the PWCA and other conservation-minded organizations to preserve this significant site.

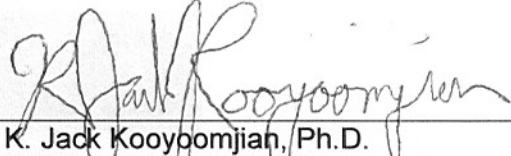
If you need further information, please contact Dr. Jack Kooyoomjian at (202) 343-9984 or [Kooyoomjian.Jack@epa.gov](mailto:Kooyoomjian.Jack@epa.gov) to arrange a convenient date and time to discuss this matter with our group, if you need any further elaboration.

Most cordially,




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Mr. Earl M. Cunard  
President, LOCCA



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K. Jack Kooyoomjian, Ph.D.  
Vice President, LOCCA



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Mr. Thomas F. Burrell, III  
Chairman, PELT Committee/LOCCA

cc: Mr. Charlie Grymes, President, PWCA  
Ms. Kim Hosen, Executive Director, PWCA  
Board of Directors, PWCA  
Mr. Steve Griffith, Director, PWC Planning Office  
Prince William County Board of Supervisors  
Prince William County Planning Commission