

Nokesville Civic Association

P.O. Box 452
Nokesville, VA 20182

September 15, 2005

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Attn: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
203 Governor St.
Richmond, VA 23219

To Whom It May Concern:

The Nokesville Civic Association would like to show our strong support for the Prince William Conservation Alliance's project to purchase and preserve Merrimac Farm as a birding and wildlife habitat.

Mr. Dean McDowell, the former owner of the farm, was a longstanding member of the Nokesville Civic Association, and a great advocate for conservation efforts. We feel that this type of project could be a wonderful tribute to his memory in our community.

The protection of the Merrimac Farm environmental resources is important to the overall preservation efforts in Prince William County. This sector of the county has experienced rapid development in the past 20 years. As a result, the county has very little parkland preserved for passive recreation, such as hiking and bird watching.

We strongly believe that Merrimac Farm represents the perfect opportunity to preserve existing high quality wildlife habitat for the following reasons:

- The project ensures the protection of sensitive areas from development. This protection is instrumental in maintaining water quality in Cedar Run, and the associated wetlands, as well as protecting the wildlife in that area.
- Future generations of county residents should be able to enjoy the fish and wildlife that flourishes in this type of protected habitat.
- Merrimac Farm would become an excellent educational field trip resource for our local schools, scout troops, 4H clubs, and other interested groups, who currently travel far distances to the other end of the county to experience that type of habitat.
- Protecting nature in our county makes good economic sense.

Prince William Conservation Alliance's proposal will effectively preserve, protect and enhance our county's environmental resources with your help. Please consider awarding the grant to ensure that Merrimac Farm is available for generations of people in Prince William County to enjoy.

Respectfully yours,



Michelle Trenum

Secretary, Nokesville Civic Association

CC: Nokesville Civic Association Executive Board