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Andrew May  
18620 TURMERIC CT.



GERMANTOWN, MD, 20874

MR. PARKER WILLIAMS, ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
707 NORTH CALVERT ST.  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

RE: ICC PROJECT COMMENTS - PLEASE INCLUDE IN THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENT  
IMPACT STATEMENT

Dear Mr. Williams,

I AM WRITING YOU IN REGARDS TO THE PROPOSED INTERCOUNTY CONNECTOR HIGHWAY SYSTEM. WE UNDERSTAND IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY THAT THIS ENORMOUSLY EXPENSIVE, DESTRUCTIVE, AND UNNECESSARY PROJECT IS BEING TOUTED AS 'SMART' GROWTH. PROMISING ECONOMIC GROWTH, A CONTINUATION OF PROSPEROUS LIFESTYLES AND RENEWED EXPANSION, THE I.C.C. IS HELD UP AS THE SOLUTION TO A STAGNATING REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT. WORKS FOR THE DEVELOPERS, IT SEEMS. HERE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, WHERE UNEMPLOYMENT IS THE LOWEST IN THE U.S., WHERE GROWTH HAS CONTINUED WITH LITTLE CONSIDERATION FOR ITS DELETERIOUS EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT, INCREASINGLY AGGRAVATING VERY POORLY DESIGNED TRAFFIC PATTERNS, WE (THE GREATER MAJORITY) RECKON WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER DAMN SUPER HIGHWAY SYSTEM TO CONTEND WITH.

(OVER)

## THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS WITH THE ICC ARE :

- ① Its extraordinary cost. Preliminary understanding is the system would cost \$1 billion, which of course understates true costs by a factor of 30-60% depending on how long it actually takes to build. Then, there are maintenance costs
- ② The destruction of vast tracts of woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat, peace and quiet, air quality, future real estate values, and so forth.
- ③ The ICC will not relieve congestion on I 270 and I 495, for the obvious reasons that these roads, <sup>already</sup> serve persons going to ~~the~~ other destinations. Building another artery will replicate the conditions which have resulted in the unconscionable overdevelopment of upper Montgomery County, ~~now~~ made traffic congestion the rule, and cause general complication for an area already severely troubled.
- ④ Several streams would be affected, as would river watersheds, resulting in a degrading of waterways already significantly overburdened with suburban effluent. Highway stormdrains generally drain into the rapidly disintegrating Chesapeake Bay watershed, <sup>meanwhile,</sup> ~~while~~ woodlands and healthy streams provide replenishment of fresh water filtered by soils and vegetation, an antidote to the backwash of automobile-produced pollution.
- ⑤ Clean air standards? Forget those. Federal Environmental Clean Air Standards compliance? Not in the Montgomery County Prince Georges County region with an I.C.C.
- ⑥ Building this road means access to unbuilt, currently ~~unbuilt~~ <sup>non-development-</sup> ~~unbuilt~~ land for a large number of land, real estate, office park and "residential" developers who currently need a giant road to justify further overbuilding this excessively developed region. What better excuse than a highway with nowhere to go?
- ⑦ ICC puts into place a key piece of the outer beltway project, shelved when the area's citizens properly opposed it in 1983. If it wasn't a good idea then, it is ~~less~~ <sup>less</sup> worth while than ever, now!!