



CLEAN WATER ACTION

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October 26, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Clean Water Action, a national organization that helped draft and pass the original Clean Water Act in 1972 and has had an active presence in NJ since 1982, opposes the warehouse development on over 160 acres of land in Chesterfield (NJ) which is currently zoned as agricultural, located within a wetlands area and next to Blacks Creek. We support the grassroots group "Save Old York" as they endeavor to fight for the protection of this area that directly impacts the Pinelands Preserve, a designated World Biosphere.

The parcel in question is currently less than 8 percent impervious cover and managed as an "ecological site". The presence of a golf course at this site is in this instance an attribute in maintaining open space. It is anticipated that changes in the site and region's ecology and hydrology will negatively impact the preserve.

Like our friends at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, we highly value open and transparent government; but the process around a zoning change of this site to an "Area in Need of Rehabilitation" appears to be neither. Was that change made to solely to accommodate warehouse development of a site zoned as agricultural?

Clean Water Action is also concerned that the flow of trucks coming in and out of the site will add significant amounts of diesel and other climate related emissions into the air. Diesel particulates are one of the leading causes of global warming and ice melts that contribute to sea level rise. Adding more pollution is also in direct opposition to Executive Order 100 which calls for reductions in climate impacting emissions.

In addition to their negative impacts on the environment, diesel emissions are carcinogenic, can cause and exacerbate respiratory diseases, strokes, heart attacks and more. A child's health and wellbeing are at greater risk due to their undeveloped respiratory, organ, and immune systems. Proximity of diesel emissions to children make them particularly vulnerable as diesel emissions concentrate near where they are emitted, tend to stay low to the ground and are inhaled like a vacuum by children, particularly when they are active.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection has outlined a myriad of deficiencies with the proposed application and must be addressed or warehouse proposal abandoned. Due process is needed to hear and address the concerns of the community regarding such a large change in zoning. The local government of Chesterfield must look ahead and consider the negative repercussions of such a substantial change in zoning, conversion of open space to impervious cover and its impact on future inland flooding.

We must remind ourselves on this the 10th anniversary of Super Storm Sandy and 1 year since Ida that more extreme storms and flooding are in our future. Being ever mindful of the land use choices we make today could make a tremendous difference in our future resiliency. Thank you for your consideration of Clean Water Action's concerns and stated opposition to the proposed warehouse project.

Sincerely,

Amy Goldsmith
New Jersey State Director

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New Jersey Board Chair

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