



## PINELANDS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

Bishop Farmstead ♦ 17 Pemberton Road ♦ Southampton, NJ 08088

Phone: 609-859-8860 ♦ [ppa@pinelandsalliance.org](mailto:ppa@pinelandsalliance.org) ♦ [www.pinelandsalliance.org](http://www.pinelandsalliance.org)

October 25, 2022

Re: Opposition to Warehouse Development at Old York Country Club

Township of Chesterfield: Block 701, Lot 2.01

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing in support of our friends at “Save Old York” to oppose the construction of a warehouse in Chesterfield. We are very concerned by the proposed development, as its impact on hydrology and ecology will inevitably have consequences for the Pinelands. We highly value open and transparent government; this decision-making process by the Township of Chesterfield has been neither. The process by which the property was deemed an “Area in Need of Rehabilitation” and other steps in the planning process have been problematic. Due process is needed to hear and address the concerns of the community before proceeding with such a large change in zoning.

Despite its current status as a managed ecosystem, this golf course still has ecological value that should be preserved. The property is currently less than 8% impervious surface; the proposed warehouse would double this figure, before also adding associated parking and other paved features. This would be a drastic change for the local hydrology at a time when New Jersey is grappling with climate-induced inland flooding. The site is next to 190 acres of contiguous pavement and buildings associated with the auto auction business, which already raises the risk of flooding from storms. 41% of the property is classified as a wetland—habitat which is especially important in the midst of so much neighboring development. Any development on this property should be strictly scrutinized in a manner that is transparent to the public.

Sincerely,

Heidi Yeh, Policy Director  
Pinelands Preservation Alliance