

Governor's ICC stand: 'Bogus,' 'ridiculous'

Gov. Ehrlich must think little of Montgomery County residents if he thinks they'll fall for his ridiculous assertion that building the ICC — which the state's 1997 study found would destroy wetlands, hundreds of acres of forest and include 77 stream crossings — would improve the environment. The well-respected non-partisan Chesapeake Bay Foundation strongly disagrees, as does every other environmental organization that has reviewed the proposed highway.

Not to be outdone in making irresponsible statements, the governor's state highway administrator, according to the article, "pointed out that two bus drivers had been killed on Muncaster Mill Road," implying that they would be alive if the ICC had been in place. He said this knowing there will always be substantial bus traffic on Muncaster Mill Road because Magruder High School and Redland Middle School front the road. There also will always be trucks on this road, including

landscaping trailers, like the one that was involved in the tragic collision that killed the bus driver, because there are many homes and businesses in the area that will continue to use landscaping services and receive truck deliveries. The administrator neglected to point out that the state made safety improvements to Muncaster Mill Road only after the tragic death of the school bus driver.

As one of the County Council members who worked with the community and helped persuade the State Highway Administration to make those safety improvements to Muncaster Mill Road, I am appalled at this attempt to exploit that tragedy for political purposes.

The Ehrlich administration will say anything to advance the ICC. Shame on them.

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