

KNIGHT A. KIPLINGER

July 7, 2022

Dear County Council members:

As a longtime resident of western Montgomery County (the greater Potomac/Seneca/Darnestown vicinity), I am writing—as I have several times over the past few years--in strong support of the plan to extend public sewer and water to the crossroads of Travilah and Glen roads, to enable the enhancement of neighborhood retail at the existing shopping center and renovation of a landmark farmhouse into an attractive restaurant.

Healthy communities have vibrant local retail within a short driving or walking distance of homes, reducing car trips and pollution from driving to farther shopping venues and dining spots. So this plan is both commercially and environmentally sound.

The owners of these sites are not seeking a zoning change for greater density of use. And they want to extend the utility lines at their own expense, while creating greater future tax revenue for our county.

This lovely area of our county was already enhanced by the opening of the magnificent Glenstone museum, which would not have been possible without public utilities. And the ongoing development of the nearby Hanson farm, with a well-conceived residential plan, is creating a natural neighborhood demand for high-quality retail nearby.

Reburbishing the Potomac Oak Center--long overdue--can only be financially viable with upgraded utilities. The same is true for the creation of a high-quality country inn in the Old White House.

I have known the applicants, Guy Semmes and Robert Eisinger, since they were boys growing up just minutes from the sites they own today. They care about the great Potomac/Travilah communities and have been responsible local

citizens their whole lives. They are uniquely suited to executing this wonderful plan. I urge you to support this logical and sensible proposal.

With best wishes,

*Knight A. Kiplinger*