

Subject: Case CBA 1174-E: Petition Against Holton Expansion
Date: Monday, March 30, 2026 at 9:50:15 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Catherine Zimmermann
To: OZAH@montgomerycountymd.gov
Attachments: image001.png

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Holton Arms expansion application under Case # CBA 1174-E.

As someone familiar with the school and the surrounding area, I am deeply concerned that the Holton Arms campus simply does not have the physical capacity to absorb a 30% increase in academic enrollment or a 45% increase in summer camp enrollment. The campus is already at its limits in terms of space for students and parking. Adding hundreds more students and cars to the existing footprint is not a workable solution — it is a recipe for overcrowding and a diminished experience for everyone on campus.

Traffic on River Road is already a serious problem. During morning drop-off and afternoon pickup, congestion backs up significantly in both directions, creating safety hazards and frustration for commuters, residents, and emergency responders alike. It takes our family as much time to drive on River Road in 2 blocks as it does for us to drive from our home in downtown Bethesda to River Road and Wilson Road. Approving this expansion without mandatory, enforceable traffic mitigation measures would make an already bad situation considerably worse — not just on River Road, but through the surrounding neighborhoods of Burning Tree, Bradley Boulevard, and Al Marah.

Beyond the traffic and infrastructure concerns, I want to emphasize that the small school environment and small class sizes are precisely what make Holton Arms exceptional. The school's top rankings and reputation are a direct result of its ability to give each student individualized attention and meaningful access to sports, arts, and academic opportunities. Expanding enrollment would dilute those very qualities that distinguish Holton Arms. Larger schools mean more competition for spots on teams, in plays, and in leadership roles — and ultimately a lesser experience for each student.

Holton Arms does not need to grow to be great. In fact, growing may undermine the greatness it has already achieved.

I urge OZAH to deny the expansion requests outlined in Case # CBA 1174-E.

Sincerely,

Catherine Zimmermann



Parent of Holton Students

2024

2026

2028

2028