

MOTION APPROVED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON JULY 16, 1968

To: The Executive Committee.

From: The Parks, Recreation, and Libraries Committee, July 16, 1968.

The Parks, Recreation, and Libraries Committee moves that the following letter relative to the Hunting Creek landfill be adopted by the executive committee for transmittal to Governor Godwin, with copies to the board of supervisors and the Fairfax County delegation in Richmond:

JULY 30, 1968.

Hon. MILLS E. GODWIN, Jr.,
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia,
Richmond, Va.

DEAR GOVERNOR GODWIN: This is to express the views of the executive committee of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations with respect to the proposed landfill in the Hunting Creek estuary of the Potomac River bordering the city of Alexandria and Fairfax County.

The committee feels that approval of the application to landfill approximately 9.5 acres of the Potomac River by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sets an undesirable precedent for the Potomac and that it will encourage further landfills whenever and wherever land use pressures arise. The implications of this action for Fairfax County, with its significant Potomac shoreline, seem all too clear.

As you know, the Potomac River offers substantial recreation and conservation potentialities for the citizens of Fairfax County, largely unfulfilled. Further development along the Potomac ought to be in keeping with these values and with the stated goal of the Potomac River Basin Advisory Committee to make the Potomac "a model of conservation." It is difficult to see how the Hunting Creek landfill, and its use for high-rise apartments, is consistent with this goal.

Not only will the landfill destroy an important winter feeding ground for thousands of diving ducks, it will diminish the value of the parkland to be developed by the National Park Service on the Fairfax County side of the Hunting Creek estuary.

Of further concern is the attitude of the Virginia Department of Wildlife and Inland Fisheries concerning the conservation values of Hunting Creek. Public hearings held on July 9, 1968, by the Government Operations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives disclosed an allegation that the department refused to comment on the importance of this area for wildlife purposes and that it considered the estuary insignificant with respect to its conservation values. Should this allegation be true, the department's attitude is at odds with expert testimony presented by the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Dr. Francis Uhler of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, who conducted decades of study in this area, and other conservationists who are familiar with the estuary. Quite frankly, such attitudes on the part of our public agencies discourage serious efforts to preserve and upgrade the quality of the environment in increasingly urbanized Fairfax County.

The executive committee is further concerned with the legislative history which surrounded passage of House bill 591, chapter 546, of the 1964 general assembly through which title to the landfill may be granted by the Commonwealth. We seriously question the propriety of granting title to public land so acquired and urge you to make it clear that you will not grant title under the discretionary authority conveyed to you by House bill 591 should the landfill be completed.

In behalf of the executive committee of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations, I am,

Sincerely,

THOMAS M. STANNERS, *President.*

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,
Richmond, August 6, 1968.

Mr. THOMAS M. STANNERS,
President, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations,
Annandale, Va.

DEAR MR. STANNERS: I appreciate the frankness and sincerity of your letter of August 1 objecting to the landfill in the Hunting Creek estuary and suggesting that I not grant title when the landfill is completed.