



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Phil Mendelson  
Chairman

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January 27, 2014

The Honorable Craig Rice  
President, Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Rice:

I write concerning the pending decision on the Ten Mile Creek Limited Master Plan Amendment, and request that you consider the District of Columbia's perspective—as well as its crucial need for clean drinking water—before increasing the vulnerability of this water supply to urban runoff.

As a signatory to the 1982 Water Supply Coordination Agreement, the District of Columbia is a co-investor in building and operating the Little Seneca Reservoir. We have a strong interest in the quality of drinking water that flows from that source to District residents in times of drought. As you are aware, the District's water supply comes from an intake pipe in the Potomac approximately seven miles downstream from Seneca Creek. During a drought, water from Little Seneca Reservoir is released to form a significant portion of the Potomac's flow. Thus, Little Seneca Reservoir is a crucial source of clean drinking water. The Little Seneca Reservoir should not be subjected to potential pollution that would degrade the quality of the water.

The extensive urbanization for Ten Mile Creek recommended by the Montgomery County Planning Board does not, in my view, consider the impact on the District's drinking water. Nor does this reflect watershed protection science, or provide the multiple barriers of drinking water supply protection called for in the Safe Drinking Water Act. Effective watershed protection, through sound land use plans that strictly limit impervious surfaces and maximize forest cover, is the prudent way to ensure the reliability of our drinking water supply.

As a co-investor in this Reservoir, I request that the County establish a fully protective land use plan for Ten Mile Creek. I support the call for a study of the long-term reliability and protection needs for Little Seneca Reservoir and its entire watershed, of which Ten Mile Creek is a significant part. I would be happy to meet with you to further discuss this issue and to work with you to seek a collaborative solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Mendelson".

Phil Mendelson, Chairman

PM/bm