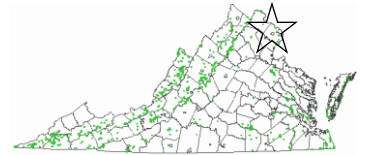




MOUNT VERNON GROUP VIRGINIA CHAPTER

THE CITIES OF ALEXANDRIA & FALLS CHURCH, ARLINGTON COUNTY, AND
EASTERN FAIRFAX & PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTIES



Chairman McKay and Supervisors Storck and Lusk

May 4, 2020

We are writing to express concerns with the Alpine X proposal for the “Fairfax Peak” ski slope complex at the Lorton landfill. At the February 1, 2020, Mount Vernon town meeting, a stated 2020 focus was to continue to make connections with the public. Under the Transportation and Land Use agenda, an item was to “Evaluate Fairfax Peak indoor ski facility proposal.” We would appreciate knowing the status of this evaluation.

We believe the public needs to know the answers to a number of questions before a project of this size is approved:

1. Has a thorough environmental assessment been performed by the County, including impacts to air and water quality and natural resources?
2. With an estimated 400,000 visitors to the location annually, have the air and noise pollution aspects been evaluated to be within mandated limits of the federal Clean Air Act, the state implementation plan and the federal Clean Water Act and state requirements?
3. Given the large increase in impermeable surfaces at the sites, has the impact of stormwater runoff into the watershed and groundwater quality been assessed? What is the source of water and how will that impact (1) Fairfax County’s surface water supplies and (2) groundwater in Virginia’s declining eastern aquifer?
4. This facility and its operations would also require significant energy usage. What is the source of energy for the facility and will it add pollution and greenhouse gases to the atmosphere? How does the increased energy usage fit within the County’s plans for climate actions, including plans to install solar on the landfill?
5. Will there be additions to current public transit to service the location? If so, how much of the cost will be borne by the County and how much by the developer? If not, has a study been done to evaluate the impact of traffic on local roads? On I-95?
6. Has the developer or the county analyzed the impact on natural resources, including native plants and wildlife? It is well known, for example, that ospreys, bald eagles and other birds frequent the area.

The Alpine X proposal for “Fairfax Peak” on the County website does not provide answers. The Board of Supervisors and the public need to know the results of environmental assessments before any approvals at any level are given. In addition, Fairfax County has the environmental liability for the landfill. Landfills commonly emit methane gas and have other hazards. The County taxpayers need to know about any risks this project would create and how they would be addressed.

The construction of this facility will have major, long-term impacts on Fairfax County. We believe it is imperative that the Board of Supervisors provide to the county and to the public a full accounting of the plans and impacts. We look forward to your response.

Thank you
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