

Good Evening Board of Supervisors,

My name is Evan McCarthy and I'm speaking on behalf of the Piedmont Environmental Council.

PEC fought hard against the True North application in 2017 and 2018, opposing it based on Comprehensive Plan policy, natural resource protection, and site specific concerns due to its adjacency to Goose Creek and the reservoir. These and related environmental issues weren't adequately addressed in the approval process.

It was a huge disappointment to (1) have this policy change and (2) to lose the valuable natural assets onsite.

But tonight we are **not** here to oppose the changes that the applicant requests, we **are** here to acknowledge the improvements they have proposed.

The challenging and sensitive areas of greatest concern along Goose Creek and the northern end of the site along the Greenway remain undeveloped. At the applicant's invitation, we've seen that the globally rare Northern Piedmont Mafic Barren is still intact.

Although the site is here to stay, the applicant is now willing to take steps to correct some of the existing deficiencies. The proffer adjustments are promising:

- Removing the two buildings closest to the Greenway will reduce the impervious cover onsite, lessen the water quality impact on Goose Creek, and preserve around 27 acres of contiguous quality forest with habitat and carbon sequestration benefits.
- Protecting the Mafic Barren will permanently preserve this globally rare resource.
- Funding to the county will help support restoration and a variety of watershed improvements for Goose Creek.

Additional details in the proffers and on the CDP will help to tighten down the application. These include:

- Illustrating and referencing the complete area proposed to protect the Mafic Barren.
  - If held by the applicant, please include a maintenance provision to best preserve the Mafic Barren plant community.
- Specify that the entire forested area will remain undisturbed, except that they will remove invasive species. Several were identified on sheet 3 of the CDP.
- Use spill containment berms to prevent ground contamination when filling the fuel tanks.

Nothing can fully mitigate the impact of a data center site next to Goose Creek, but these commitments will reduce the potential negative impacts, and are what we'd expect from a good neighbor.

Thank you for your attention.