



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
P.O. Box 65
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A46 (HAFE)

MAR 2 2008

Mr. Joseph Kroboth, III
Director of Public Works
100 West Washington St. Room 238
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Dear Mr. Kroboth:

Thank you for your letter of February 18, 2008, regarding a public informational meeting on the communications tower project proposed for Keep Tryst Road and Sandy Hook Road in Washington County, Maryland.

National Park Service (NPS) officials from Harpers Ferry, C&O Canal, and the Appalachian Trail have attempted to reach some consensus with county staff on the tower's height and location. However, a consensus apparently remains out of reach at this time, based upon the county's decision to move forward with a public meeting March 26. While we expect further discussion with you regarding the tower's height, the county's position to present a 190-ft. tower at a public meeting leaves no alternative but for the National Park Service, as part of the public record, to unconditionally oppose this tower at this location.

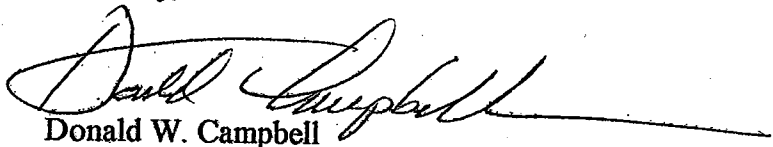
The NPS believes viable alternatives exist to height and location—including utilization of NPS adjacent lands—that will provide and possibly improve the coverage for southern Washington County. We hope to work with you on these alternatives.

Since NPS rangers often are the first responders to emergencies in the Sandy Hook/Harpers Ferry Road area, we remain fully committed to communications that improve safety for personnel involved in law enforcement, search and rescue, fire, and EMS response. We believe this can be accomplished, however, without a 190-ft. tower marring one of the most prominent historic landscapes in America.

Washington County has recognized the scenic and historic significance of southern Washington County for more than 40 years. The county aggressively worked to support protection of the Civil War resources on Maryland Heights in the early 1960s, advocating for their inclusion in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. The county designated Pleasant Valley as one of its few conservation zones in its original 1973 zoning. The county's most recent Comprehensive Plan further strengthened the conservation rules for Pleasant Valley. Construction of this 190-ft. tower will introduce an unsightly and unnecessary intrusion into an area surrounded by three national parks. It is a proposal that is, simply, unacceptable.

We look forward to working with you on developing alternatives to the height and location of the communications tower in southern Washington County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald W. Campbell", written over a horizontal line.

Donald W. Campbell
Superintendent

cc: John F. Barr, President
Washington County Commissioners