

My name is Glenn McAfee, and I've lived on Ray Drive since 1989. 4 generations of my family have enjoyed many hours of working, hiking and hunting on our land. Our investment here hasn't been for financial gain, it's been to build a homestead for future generations. Now, once again, the Charles County Planning and Zoning Dept. and the County Commissioners are challenging our right to live the American Dream.

It's easy to look at the Planning Department's charts and plats and be misled. At a glance, you might only see large undeveloped spaces. However, if you look at a topographical map you'll recognize that most of the land surrounding the runway is still undeveloped because it's financially unfeasible to develop. It consists of segmented flat areas, largely divided by ravines, steep hills, creeks and wetlands. In fact, 3 of the 4 roads that allow access to and from this area are often closed during storms due to The Mattawoman Creek flooding, sometimes for days.

As far back as 1994, the prior owners of MD Airport came up with a plan to expand and enlarge their struggling private airport into a regional hub, by using Federal money. Joining forces with County Administrators and several prominent business owners of the time, the land surrounding the airport was quietly rezoned to IG. The FAA then proceeded to fund the airport expansion, eventually sinking over 19M of our tax dollars into the project.

Upon completion, this "Airfield of Dreams" - which was conceived with the idea that "If we build it, they will come", only proved to be a swing and a miss. None of the expected supporting businesses ever showed up. It later sold for just over \$2M. What a great investment for American taxpayers...

After the dream fizzled, this area, currently being referred to as the Aviation Business Park, was rezoned to the Water Conservation District, which made perfect sense. It's the correct designation for such an environmentally sensitive area.

Now history repeats itself. County Officials are seeking to revise the land use again, even after the previous industrial rezoning and a nearly \$20M boondoggle failed to fulfill any of the previous hopes of a long gone set of Airport owners and County Administrators. We're being told that no county tax dollars will be used to fund the proposed changes to this area. Whether funded by County, State, or Federal dollars, all tax dollars are OUR Dollars, and we need to stop pouring good money after bad!

Who really stands to gain from this plan? Certainly not the local residents! One of the most popular natural resources in Charles County is the Lily Pond on the Indian Head Rail Trail. This pond is directly south of the Md Airport runway, and part of it is adjacent to the Airport property line. All of the runoff which leaves the Airport flows directly into the Lily Pond, which in turn flows into the Mattawoman Creek, which is a nationally recognized spawning site for anadromous fish such as herring, yellow and white perch, and striped bass. A decrease of spawning sites has been documented recently in the Mattawoman Creek. Biologists have expressed concerns that development activity in in the watershed is reducing the water quality of this prized fishery. Forest clearing and runoff of storm water from roads and impermeable surfaces raise stream water temperature, increase the flow of water, which erodes stream banks, and cause sedimentation and pollution of streams.

Please show us that holding this public hearing isn't just a matter of checking it off the list, prior to announcing a forgone conclusion. Do the right thing, protect both the environment and the residents, and stop this nonsense once and for all!

Glenn McAfee