



2228 Southorn Rd.
Middle River, Md. 21220
January 20, 2012

The Honorable Kathy A. Bevins
Baltimore County Council
Sixth District
7856 Belair Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21236

Dear Ms. Bevins,

The Aero Amateur Radio Club is a non-profit organization based in Middle River that is dedicated to the promotion of the amateur radio service in our local community. We were founded in 1946 as an employee activity of the Glenn L. Martin Co. and, although our relationship with the company is no longer in effect, we still are active as an independent group. Many of our members have been active over the years in Civil Defense and Public Service Communications and in giving hands-on demonstrations to youth groups, especially the Boy and Girl Scouts.

We are writing this letter to express our concern about an article that appeared in the Baltimore Sun regarding the proposed closure of Essex Skypark on Diffendal Rd, in Essex. We respectfully urge you to help find a way to keep the skypark open.

Essex Skypark has been part of the Eastern Baltimore Community since 1943, only a few years prior to our own beginnings. It is an historic asset to our community and served as part of the war effort. Too many of the reminders of the history of Eastern Baltimore County areas are disappearing.

The present membership of the Essex Skypark Association has a mission that parallels our own. Where we promote the advancement of radio communications, the Skypark membership promotes and supports the advancement of private aviation. As with our group, the Skypark Association provides outreach to the local community. They open their facilities for use by scout groups and Civil Air Patrol.

The Essex Skypark remains the only public use airport in Baltimore County. The runway there provides a safe landing for distressed aircraft; a training facility open to use by law enforcement and first responders for air, land and sea rescue. There are currently about 45 aircraft maintained at the skypark completely an owners expense and at no cost to the Baltimore County Government.

The Sunpaper article stated that the reason for closure was to provide a buffer zone allowing developers in other parts of the county to plant trees at the skypark to offset the environmental damage caused by the new development. Would not a better approach be to plant trees in the newly developed areas to maintain a balance of vegetation throughout the county? In any event there should be a way to plant some trees at the park while allowing the airstrip to remain open.

We, the members of the Aero Amateur Radio Club, ask Baltimore County to preserve this historic asset in our local community.

Sincerely,

Jack N. Byrnes WB3FMT
Philip J. Hook W3VRD
William W. Hartman W3JDB
Robert K. Archibald WA3SWA
Eric R. Carl JR KB3JOE
KA3SNY David Vlecek
Lou Kordich KB3LTF
Eduard Larsen W3PG
Gronia D. Stutz AC3P
Patricia E. Stone AC3F



2228 Southorn Rd.
Middle River, Md. 21220
January 20, 2012

The Honorable Kevin Kamenetz
Baltimore County Executive
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, MD 21204

Dear Mr. Kamenetz,

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Jeff M. Nye WB3FMT
Philip J. Hoch W3VRD
Warren W. Hartman W3JDB
Robert Canby WA3SWA
Eric R. Carl JR KB3JDE
KA3SNY David Vleck
Lou Kardak KB3LTF
Edward Larsen W3PG
Thomas D. Stutz AC3P
Patricia E. Stone AC3F