



TUCKER COUNTY COMMISSION

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www.tuckercountycommission.com

December 12, 2014

Mr. Edward Horton

Chief Administrative Officer

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration

1305 East West Highway

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Horton,

Thank you for attending the Dec. 3 Public Meeting held in Davis, WV. The announcement that your office has approved the potential transfer of Canaan Valley Institute (CVI) property to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, to be occupied by Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, once they complete their due diligence, has created a great deal of interest from residents, county boards and civic organizations.

Information presented by officials of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Ron Hollis, Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge manager and a proposal by the National Youth Science Foundation were well received. Both groups have been very active and beneficial to the citizens of Tucker County.

Based on the information presented this commission to date, and as a matter of public record, the Tucker County Commission submits the following comments and recommendations for your consideration:

- We support National Youth Science Foundation's proposal to transform the research and education facilities currently housed in the CVI building into a STEM Education Center. STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) is a local and national priority.
- NYSF will create job opportunities that will have a direct, positive economic impact on Tucker County.
- NYSF will partner to preserve and enhance existing trail systems that are vital to Tucker County's economy.
- We oppose the relocation of CVNWR headquarters and especially the Visitors Center. The Canaan Valley National Fish and Wildlife Headquarters located in the heart of Canaan Valley is well situated and surrounded by the majority of

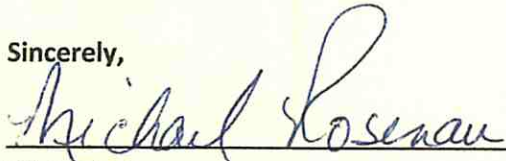
the land it holds title to. In addition to office space, the facility houses a very active Visitors Center that serves as an anchor in the valley. A popular destination of tourists and residents, the center is staffed by a dedicated group of volunteers that offer year round educational programs and a variety of other services. A large number of those volunteers will not make the commute to the proposed location along Corridor H.

- Overwhelming support from the general public for the National Youth Science Foundation proposal was evident at the Dec. 3 meeting. County boards and civic organizations plan to submit written comment in that regard.
- Additional land acquisition by the NWR will have negative tax implications for Tucker County. We support the federal mandate to *freeze the footprint*.

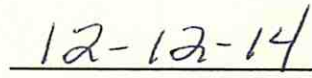
CVI, the organization and its employees, are an asset to the Tucker community. The commission supports every effort to expedite the transfer to alleviate their burden of maintaining a 27,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility.

WHEREAS, the Tucker County Commission strongly supports the National Youth Science Foundation in their pursuit of the Canaan Valley Institute property and buildings, the Commission would ask that the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration allow the transfer of the Institute property to the Foundation.

Sincerely,



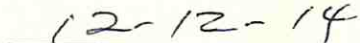
Michael Rosenau



Date




Lowell Moore



Date



Diane Hinkle



Date

CC: Dr. Kathryn Sullivan
Secretary Sally Jewell
Dan Ashe, USFWS
Wendi Weber
Ron Hollis
Judge Ron Pearson
Dr. Andrew Blackwood
Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin
Dr. Michael J. Martirano
Sen. Bob Williams
Sen. Dave Sypolt
Del. Randy Smith
Sen. Joe Manchin
Sen. David McKinley
Sen. John Rockefeller
Sen. Shelly Moore Capito
Cong. Alex Mooney
The Parsons Advocate