

Annapolis Bicycle Club



P.O. Box 224 Annapolis Maryland 21404

February 1, 2007

Honorable John Leopold
Anne Arundel County Executive
Arundel Center
44 Calvert Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Leopold,

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed expansion of the Town Point Dredge Material Placement facility. I am, of course, concerned about the environmental impact on Anne Arundel County and the Chesapeake Bay, as are most Anne Arundel county citizens.

However, I write today to point out the danger of allowing such a facility to expand its operation, with the inevitable increase of heavy truck traffic on Town Point, Fairhaven, and Leitch roads.

Many cyclists use these roads for exercise and recreation. The prospect of frequent encounters with large, heavily laden multi-ton trucks while riding a 25 pound bicycle on one of these roads is daunting at the least. Leitch Road especially is no place for heavy traffic. Properly signed as 'Narrow and Winding' when you enter it from the west, it has no shoulders, is extremely narrow, and due to the turns and dips it is often impossible to see oncoming traffic until only a few feet away. Riding on Leitch road with constant truck traffic would be extremely dangerous – to the point that I would have to stop using it, and to recommend to our members and all other cyclists that they should never use it again. That in turn would seriously limit our use of Town Point Road, as without Leitch, there would be no exit at the north end.

Heavy truck traffic on Town Point and Fairhaven would also be dangerous, as they are straight enough to allow high speeds, but have little or no shoulders available for a cyclist to use to avoid an accident.

In view of the above, I hope that you will give extremely close attention to the possible expansion of this facility, and decide that the county should obey the State and County Critical Area rules – and prohibit any expansion.

Sincerely,

James A. Claffey
Vice President