



Save Rural Loudoun

September 5, 2018

Phyllis J. Randall
Chair
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Dear Chair Randall:

I am writing to call your attention to a lack of transparency and balance in recent advisory group discussions on zoning amendments, which may have critical impacts on local small businesses and residents. SRL became aware of this issue as we followed the ZOAG rural subcommittee's ongoing discussions of a proposed amendment that would allow indoor sports complexes and outdoor shooting ranges to be built throughout the RPA. However, we do not believe this is an isolated incident, and our concern applies to all advisory group processes.

During the subcommittee's August 28 meeting, we learned that the proposal relating to sportsplexes was initiated by Evergreen Sportsplex, LLC, which wishes to expand the facilities on its existing 44-acre property off Evergreen Road. Unfortunately, it appears that the information Evergreen submitted more than a year ago in support of its initial proposal has not been placed on the public record. SRL does not know, therefore, whether Evergreen provided a justification for expanding only its existing facilities, or for constructing similar facilities in other parts of the RPA. SRL is very interested in reviewing that documentation.

This raises a significant concern about whether advice the BOS receives from the ZOAG reflects the interests of the general public, or only the interests of individual interested parties.

SRL very much appreciates your support for appointing a representative of rural preservation interests to the ZOAG, which will certainly help to address this concern. As a follow-up to this important first step, we request your leadership and advocacy for further efforts to strengthen the transparency and balance of the decision-making processes in the ZOAG and other advisory groups established by the BOS.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if SRL can be of assistance to you on this or any other issue.

Sincerely,

John Ellis
President, Save Rural Loudoun