



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

JAN 21 2010

Mr. James Lighthizer, President
Civil War Preservation Trust
1156 15th Street, N.W. Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005

Mr. Tom Kiernan, President
National Parks Conservation Association
1300 19th Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Lighthizer and Mr. Kiernan:

As Director of the National Park Service (NPS), I am sending you this letter to express the seriousness of the NPS's concerns about the detrimental impacts of the proposed development on the Wilderness Battlefield, which is the subject of the challenge in *National Trust for Historic Preservation, et al. v. Board of Supervisors of Orange County, Virginia, Circuit Court of Orange County, No. CL000240-00*. I understand that you wish to share this letter with others and I have no objection to your doing so.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) and other plaintiffs are challenging the approval of a zoning Special Use Permit allowing the development of an approximately 138,229 sq. ft. Walmart Supercenter and 100,000 sq. ft. of additional retail space, which would be located adjacent to the Wilderness Battlefield Unit of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (Park), just outside the current Park boundary.

The NPS has previously communicated its concerns to the County about the adverse impacts of the proposed Walmart Complex on the Wilderness Battlefield Unit of Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, both in writing and by personal appearance of the Park Superintendent Russell Smith at three public hearings on the proposal, but to no avail. In addition, similar concerns have also been raised to the County by the Governor of Virginia, the Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, members of Congress, and a petition signed by over 200 historians. See attached Exhibits A, B, C, D, E, F and G.

Background:

The Route 20/Route 3 intersection in Orange County, Virginia, which serves as the primary gateway to Wilderness Battlefield, has become the focal point for intense development efforts. Of most immediate concern is the proposal for the Walmart Supercenter and associated stores.

