

# **THE JOURNEY**

## **THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND**

March 7, 2022

To the Members of the Planning Commission of Culpeper County, Virginia

I am writing on behalf of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area to voice support for maintaining the agricultural/open space zoning for the “Magnolia Property” along Route 3 near historic Salubria and Hansbrough Ridge.

Culpeper County is in the midst of the JTHG National Heritage Area which encompasses the region between Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and Charlottesville, Virginia. Culpeper with its historic, scenic, cultural and agricultural resources personifies why our heritage area was created, which is to strengthen local economies by preserving these treasures. Heritage tourism is a thriving and growing economic engine in the region but, of course, requires historic sites and scenic open space to attract visitors.

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground has supported the many years of work by local residents and groups and national organizations to preserve these resources. Their exceptional qualities are leading to the creation of a state park. Hansbrough Ridge is the site of the largest concentration of untouched Civil War encampment features in the United States and Salubria, the oldest brick house in Culpeper County, was used during the Civil War as a Union headquarters and hospital. Changing the zoning to permit industrial buildings, including data centers, not just near, but next door to some of Culpeper’s most iconic historic sites will irrevocably destroy the reason for so many visitors to come to Culpeper.

We greatly appreciate your time and dedication to Culpeper County and its future. As there are industrial zoned areas in Culpeper, even in the same Stevensburg District, designed to permit and attract data centers and other industries, this particular area, so unique that it is about to become a state park, should be left as agricultural land and treasured.

Sincerely



William W. Sellers  
President & CEO