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John Grace, Chief Source Protection and Appropriation Division
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington, Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Dr. Grace:

I am writing on behalf of Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth (DCPG) of Cambridge, MD. Five of our board members attended the informational hearing at the Dorchester County Public Library on February 27th regarding a water withdrawal permit requested by Valley Proteins, Inc. located in Linkwood, MD. We wish to voice concerns regarding subsidence of the land due to water withdrawal which was not addressed during the meeting, and apparently was not addressed in the environmental evaluation. Also, we want to express great concern regarding the wastewater being generated by Valley Proteins. We request that MDE postpone approving the water withdrawal permit for Valley Proteins, Inc. until more information is provided as to the disposal of the additional wastewater. Indeed, given the potential for further degradation to the waterway from expanded wastewater discharge, this issue should be resolved prior to the approval of the groundwater withdrawal permit.

For the past eleven years, our water-quality monitoring committee members have been engaged in biweekly testing of the water in the tributary of the Transquaking above Higgins Mill Pond which carries the wastewater from Valley Proteins. In addition, other board members have

done exhaustive research, making numerous trips to MDE to gather multiple documents that might shed some light on the pollution of the Transquaking.

We have over ten years of data indicating that the Transquaking has the highest nitrogen concentrations of any streams in the area. Although we realize that Valley Proteins may not be entirely responsible for this situation, we feel a great deal of concern which leads us to believe that MDE should investigate.

Valley Proteins, Inc. is in the process of expanding, thus the need for more water. We believe that the more the company expands, the more discharge will be created. The Transquaking is a very small stream. You indicated that you would notify Mike Richardson, Chief, Industrial Permits Division at MDE of our concerns. To this date, we have not received any word from Dr. Richardson.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you postpone issuing the water withdrawal permit until our wastewater concerns have been addressed.

DCPG is made up of over 200 members and was organized in 2004 to guarantee a public voice in issues of land and water use. The group has pledged to advocate for the promotion, maintenance, and conservation of the natural resources, farmland, waterways and open spaces of Dorchester County.

Sincerely yours,

Susan Olsen

DCPG Board members: Beth Ann Lynch, Roman Jesien, Ben Boettger, Jan Boettger, Diane Miller, Richard Ball, Margaret Anzalone, Lexine Lowe, Fred Pomeroy, and Susan Olsen