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October 4, 2021

Board of Supervisors
Loudoun County
1 Harrison St. SE
Leesburg, VA 20175

re: SPEX-2020-0020 & SPMI-2020-0008, AT&T Morrisonville

To Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to you on behalf of Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy in regards to Item 9 AT&T Morrisonville. We will not belabor the facts of this application, and we continue to object to this application, concurring with the Planning Commission's and County staff's recommendation that these special exception applications should not be approved.

There are many examples throughout rural areas of Loudoun County that employ creative alternatives for wireless communication devices. These include, but are not limited to, silos, fire station flagpoles, former grain towers, water towers, and other existing structures. It is our understanding that Peter Weeks, President of the Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains, has previously shared photographs of some of these examples with the Board of Supervisors.

Additionally, new towers have been built downslope from ridgelines. Another example not mentioned in staff's report is the invisible tower that was approved and constructed in 2019 at Morven Park. Though Morven Park owns land on the ridgeline, that tower was built at a much lower elevation completely off of the Catoctin Ridge. A similar creative solution(s) should be sought in this case as well.

Yes, there are a few limited examples of towers on ridgelines constructed before the current policy documents were adopted, but as Supervisor Buffington stated at the public hearing, "just because something was done wrong in the past, doesn't mean we should continue to do wrong in the future." We couldn't agree more.

We trust that the Board of Supervisors will make decisions to protect the vision of Loudoun County that is laid out in our guiding policy documents. Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy urges the Board of Supervisors to follow the recommendations of the Planning Commission and County staff, and deny these applications as presented.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Myers
Executive Director

PO Box 1892, Leesburg, VA 20177