

SENATE OF VIRGINIA



June 8, 2012

Ms. Carolyn Schwenker Brody
Chairman, National Trust for Historic Preservation Board of Trustees
1785 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20036-2117

Dear Chairman Brody,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Route 1 Widening Project in Alexandria, Virginia, adjacent to the Woodlawn Plantation National Historic Landmark. As you may well be aware, the widening of Route 1 from the current four lanes to six lanes has been planned for many years. The 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) Commission necessitated the movement of larger numbers of military employees to the Fort Belvoir facility in the southern part of Fairfax County.

The National Trust has been participating in the public process to determine the proper location for the widening with the Federal Highways Administration since 2010. However, it has come to my attention that the most recent proposal for the widening, called a "Southern Bypass," would veer away from the current roadbed in front of the Woodlawn Plantation on the west side of Route 1 and would instead take a new path to the south and east, through the property currently used by your lessee, Woodlawn Stables. It has also come to my attention that the stables were not given adequate notice to comment on this action that could result in the closure of or serious affects to their business.

Woodlawn Plantation is a national treasure, a jewel in the heart of Mount Vernon. The business of Woodlawn Stables, which has been allowed to operate on the Trust's property for nearly 60 years, is also treasured by the community. I respectfully ask you to engage as closely as possible with all affected properties and your President on this issue so that a solution can be reached to preserve this property together. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Ebbin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Adam P. Ebbin
Member, Virginia State Senate