



Whitemarsh TOWNSHIP

616 GERMANTOWN PIKE - LAFAYETTE HILL, PA 19444-1821
TEL: 610-825-3535 FAX: 610-825-9416

BOARD of SUPERVISORS

Joseph P. Corcoran III - Chairman
Steven S. Brown - Vice Chairman
Peter B. Cornog
Jonathan D. Weiss
Frances A. Zeock

April 22, 2005

Via Fax (215-641-1355) and Mail

Rocco Wack, Borough Manager
Ambler Borough
122 E. Butler Avenue
Ambler, PA 19002

Re: **Proposal for a 17-Story Building in Ambler Borough**

Dear Mr. Wack:

At our meeting on April 14th, the Whitemarsh Board of Supervisors discussed the proposed 17-story building on a property near Butler Pike in downtown Ambler Borough. As residents and elected officials in neighboring Whitemarsh Township, which has been recently decimated by increased flooding and been subjected to a significant increase in traffic passing through our Township, we feel compelled to provide our comments regarding this proposed project. We are especially concerned about the impact the proposed development will have on the Wissahickon watershed and the residents we serve who live in the watershed. While we have read that you have elected not to listen to those who live in adjoining municipalities, we urge you to give these comments your most serious consideration. Regional planning and cooperation among municipalities is the key to solving the many issues we face today.

The proposed project will worsen downstream flooding. Common sense and experience show that increased flood damage will result from the increased impervious surface created by the proposed project. We know this in spite of engineering calculations and developer commitments that "there will be no additional runoff from the site". Downstream neighborhoods in Whitemarsh Township are particularly susceptible, as was shown by flooding during the fall of 2004 when we suffered millions of dollars in damage to roadways, bridges, and homes. We have even had recent deaths from flooding. The frequency and severity of major flood events in Whitemarsh has increased proportionally with development in the upper/middle part of the Wissahickon Creek watershed (i.e., Montgomeryville to Upper Dublin) over the past 10 to 15 years. Because risks are so severe, Whitemarsh has been forced to spend a great deal of money which was allocated for other services to implement emergency stormwater management