
WILDERNESS BATTLEFIELD COALITION

August 26, 2009

Michael Duke, President and Chief Executive Officer
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
702 SW 8th Street
Bentonville, AR 72716-8611

Dear Mr. Duke:

We are writing on behalf of the Wilderness Battlefield Coalition, an alliance of national, state and local organizations with an abiding interest in the preservation of the historic Wilderness Battlefield in Orange County, Virginia. Our organizations remain gravely concerned that your company's proposal to construct of a 138,000-square-foot Wal-Mart supercenter, along with additional retail development planned for phase II of the project, will have a serious negative impact on the Wilderness Battlefield and National Park.

The Battle of the Wilderness, fought in early May 1864, was one of the most important battles of the Civil War. It marked the first clash between legendary generals Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant. More than 160,000 men were engaged in the struggle; when the guns fell silent after two days of intense fighting, nearly 29,000 Americans had been killed, wounded or captured.

In 1993, the congressionally-chartered Civil War Sites Advisory Commission identified the proposed site of the Wal-Mart supercenter as entirely within the historic boundaries of the Wilderness Battlefield. The same study ranked the Wilderness as both one of the most significant battlefields of the Civil War and as one of the Civil War sites most in need of preservation. Just this year, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) and the National Park Service (NPS) reaffirmed that the Wal-Mart site is on battlefield land.

As proposed, Wal-Mart's plan for commercial development on the battlefield alone is nearly quadruple the existing development at the Route 3 and Route 20 intersection. In addition, building on the battlefield and at the gateway to the National Park would undermine the overall visitor experience to the Wilderness Battlefield and would be incompatible with this unique and historic place. The Wilderness Battlefield is a national treasure. Any development in the area should pay respect to the soldiers who died there and the importance the battle played in our nation's history.

Although the Board of Supervisors recently approved the special use permit required to begin construction on the site, we urge you in the strongest possible terms to consider alternative

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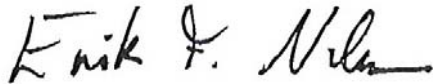
locations in Orange County that would not be so damaging to the county's most visited tourist attraction and one of the most important Civil War battlefields in the nation. Our organizations remain willing to work with your company and Orange County to find a location away from the Wilderness Battlefield and National Park that would suit Wal-Mart's needs.

We further urge Wal-Mart to take advantage of the generous offer made in July 2009 by Virginia Governor Tim Kaine and Speaker of the House of Delegates Bill Howell of state assistance and resources in selecting an alternate site.

Our Coalition has stated from the beginning that we would welcome a new Wal-Mart to Orange County at a less historically sensitive location, would be willing to consider supporting a rezoning at a location farther from the battlefield and are eager to work with the county and Wal-Mart to help identify an alternate location.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our concerns about the need for historic preservation in Orange County. If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Sincerely,



Erik Nelson, President
Central Virginia Battlefields Trust



James Lighthizer, President
Civil War Preservation Trust



Zann Nelson, President
Friends of Wilderness Battlefield



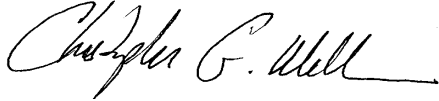
John Cummings, President
Friends of Fredericksburg Area Battlefields

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Christopher G. Miller, President
Piedmont Environmental Council



Elizabeth Kostelny, Executive Director
Preservation Virginia



Lee White, Executive Director
National Coalition for History



Thomas Kiernan, President
National Parks Conservation Association



Richard Moe, President
National Trust for Historic Preservation

cc: The Honorable Ken Salazar, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
The Honorable James Webb, United States Senator, Virginia
The Honorable Mark Warner, United States Senator, Virginia
The Honorable Eric Cantor, United States Congressman, Virginia
The Honorable Robert Wittman, United States Congressman, Virginia
The Honorable Peter Welch, United States Congressman, Vermont
The Honorable Ted Poe, United States Congressman, Texas
The Honorable Tim Kaine, Governor of Virginia
The Honorable William Howell, Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates
The Honorable Kathleen Kilpatrick, Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
John Nau, III, Chairman, Advisory Council for Historic Preservation