



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

November 3, 2023

Regina Y. Speed-Bost
Chair, WSSC Water
14501 Sweitzer Lane
Laurel, MD 20707

Kishia Powell,
General Manager, WSSC Water
14501 Sweitzer Lane
Laurel, MD 20707

Dear Chair Speed-Bost and General Manager Powell:

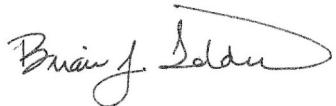
We, the undersigned elected representatives of the Maryland General Assembly and Montgomery County Council write regarding WSSC Water's termination of a lease agreement with the Avenel Equestrian Center effective December 1, 2023. We understand and appreciate that WSSC is working on scheduling a community meeting with Avenel within the next month. Given the unusual nature of this situation, the complicated and now decades old legal agreements, public interest in this issue, and practical considerations for removal from the property by the deadline, we request that WSSC Water pause the planned termination of the lease and notice to vacate in order to allow time for WSSC Water to hold the agreed upon public meeting.

As we understand it, in 1988, WSSC Water agreed to a contract with the Avenel Equestrian Center in which WSSC Water would provide maintenance of the property. As part of that contract, WSSC Water is required to "consult with and consider in good faith" the views of the community members regarding any action impacting the Avenel Equestrian Center. Unfortunately, community members were not given advance notice of termination of the lease and the opportunity to be heard prior.

We understand that WSSC Water has cost concerns regarding the maintenance of the property, and we appreciate your focus on your overall mission and fiscal stewardship of ratepayer dollars. But WSSC Water is established in state law and has a public mandate. Therefore, WSSC Water must be mindful of how its decisions will impact the community it serves. We believe that pausing the planned lease termination will allow WSSC Water and the stakeholders to work out a long-term solution.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to pause the lease termination for Avenel Equestrian Center and enter discussions with our offices and the stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Senator Brian J. Feldman
District 15



Senator Ariana B. Kelly
District 16



Councilmember Andrew Friedson
District 1



Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo
District 15



Delegate Lily Qi
District 15



Delegate Linda Foley
District 15



Delegate Marc Korman
District 16



Delegate Sara N. Love
District 16



Delegate Sarah Wolek
District 16

CC: Vice Chair T. Eloise Foster
Commissioner Fausto R. Bayonet
Commissioner Howard A. Denis.