

ORANGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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MAILING ADDRESS:
P. O. Box 111
ORANGE, VA 22960

R. BRYAN DAVID
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
R. LINDSAY GORDON III BUILDING
112 WEST MAIN STREET
ORANGE, VIRGINIA 22960

PHONE: (540) 672-3313
FAX: (540) 672-1679

February 24, 2015

Ms. Bonnie Burnham
President and Chief Executive Officer
World Monuments Fund
350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2412
New York, NY 10118-2494

Dear Ms. Burnham:

On behalf of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, I hereby endorse the inclusion of the Fort Germanna / Enchanted Castle archaeological site (44OR0003) on the 2016 World Monuments Fund Watch List.

This 62-acre site, owned by the Germanna Foundation, Locust Grove, VA, with a historic preservation easement granted to the Commonwealth of Virginia, has been called one of the most significant historical archaeological sites in Virginia by world-renowned archaeologist Dr. William "Bill" Kelso, Director of Jamestown Rediscovery. This site, which includes the remains of Alexander Spotswood's "Enchanted Castle" (ca. 1720s), is situated along Virginia State Route 3 (Germanna Highway), an area of the County under intense development pressure. The Foundation recently hired its own staff archaeologist, and is planning to re-open the archaeological exploration of the site beginning in 2015.

I'm pleased that our County has embraced a long-term development plan for this area of the County that calls for "smart growth," recognizing the need to preserve and protect the rich historic assets like the Enchanted Castle / Fort Germanna for the good of our residents and visitors alike. Additional awareness of the importance of the Enchanted Castle site will serve to enhance the Foundation's historic preservation and archaeology efforts, as well as the County's long-range development planning activities.

Inclusion of this site on the 2016 Watch List would help provide this heightened awareness of the Enchanted Castle / Fort Germanna site and its significance. This would also help Orange County solidify our plans for the future development of our County in a way that not only recognizes the significance of our historic heritage, but also preserves it for future generations.

Sincerely,

Lee H. Frame
Chairman

cc: Orange County Board of Supervisors
R. Bryan David, County Administrator
Thomas Lacheney, County Attorney