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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

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November 12, 2002

The Honorable Mark Warner
Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor
P. O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Governor Warner:

You have probably heard a lot from Orange County, both good and bad. At this point, I am trying to enlist your help.

As you may or may not be aware, we have recently had a political issue in the county involving General Shale. General Shale is the current owner of a long time brick plant in Orange County. The plant has been located in Orange County since 1955. It has been owned by a couple of different parent corporations but General Shale has owned the facilities for over ten years. They have been a very good corporate citizen. They are currently employing 72 individuals, but in the summer they employ approximately one hundred individuals. They provide good wages for those people that work there. They mine shale or clay and manufacture bricks. Their raw material at the current site, which is adjacent to the plant, will be exhausted in the very near future. They have purchased a new site approximately three miles from the existing production plant. The new site has been approved by the County.

The adjoining landowners objected to the new site. It was reported in the Richmond Times Dispatch and Washington Post as well as in local news reports. The neighbors fought this every step of the way, and have filed suit in the Circuit Court of Orange.

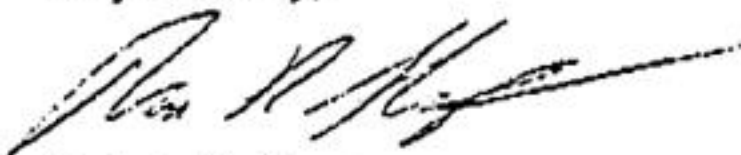
Orange County and the Commonwealth of Virginia can ill afford to lose another business. If we do not move promptly we may lose another business. In a time when we expend money and resources to attract new businesses, we must first retain existing business. It is a very bad precedent for trying to entice new business into a community, if we do not use resources to maintain an existing business, or even worse run off existing businesses.

Jason Cappelle and a group called "Friends of Barboursville" which includes Carolyn French and her husband are leading the charge to try to stop this industry.

The County has done all we can to retain General Shale. It would now appear that DMME, The Department of Historic Resources and VDOT are, if not putting up road blocks, at least dragging their feet in the permitting process. We ask that you do whatever you can to have these agencies move forward promptly so that the new site for withdrawing of raw material and production can be commenced and production can be maintained at the existing site so we can keep and maintain this good industry in Orange County and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very sincerely,



Roderic H. Slayton

RHS/fds

cc: General Shale