

May 1, 1968

TO: Members of the Kennett Pike Association

SUBJECT: "Columbia Gas System, Inc." Rezoning Ordinance

We are writing to solicit your active opposition to the above ordinance proposing to rezone approximately 38 acres of land from R-1-A (single-family residential, minimum 2 acres) to O-2 (general and research offices). This land, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Donald K. Farquhar, is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of the Montchanin Road (Route 100) and the Barley Mill Road (Route 141) as indicated on the attached map.

The membership letter of about a month ago reflected a "hands off" position taken by the Board of Trustees based on the premise that due to the proposed Route 141 improvement, an office building for 200 people . . ." is probably the best use of the site". We believe, on the contrary, that this property is best suited for residential use which is the character of the surrounding area.

Similar expressions of opposition to the encroachment of business interests upon our valuable and diminishing residential areas were aired at a meeting on April 23, 1968, called by the Board of Trustees to discuss the matter with those of us who actively objected to their stand.

Even if carried out as planned, the improvements to Route 141 would appear to enhance the residential use of this parcel of land. The new road is to be considerably depressed from its existing level, the new bridge across the Brandywine will be higher than the existing one thereby reducing the total grade, the intersection and traffic light will be eliminated at Route 100 and the overall effect of the new road on the residential use of this land will be substantially lessened. Certainly, we can see no justification for a hasty rezoning of prime residential property before the

highway plans are final or its ultimate effect on the area can be determined.

This land is part of the most lovely and desirable residential area in all of Delaware, and within easy walking distance of schools, recreational areas, shopping and transportation facilities. Unless we act quickly and positively on this rezoning application, the first step will be accomplished in commercializing our area in a manner similar to what is so distasteful along the Kirkwood Highway and Concord Pike and will set a precedent for further rezoning applications.

There is little time, as the public hearing on this application is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., Tuesday, May 7, 1968 at the County Engineering Building, Kirkwood Highway. We urge you, therefore, to express your opinion before governmental action is taken on this important matter. By studying the attached map we feel you will agree with many of us that this rezoning is unjustified, unnecessary and inappropriate. We urge you to sign and mail the enclosed post card to record your opposition.

In addition, it is very important for as many as possible to attend the Planning Board's public hearing on May 7th and write or contact your Councilman, Mr. Henry Folsom. (25 Amstel Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19711)

In the interest of time, we are signing this letter on behalf of the large group opposing the rezoning request. Please call one of us if you have any questions regarding this matter.

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