

Stewards of the Potomac Highlands

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PotomacHighlandStewards.org



March 9, 2023

Stewards statement on Great Cacapon KOA for March 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

Stewards of the Potomac Highlands, a 501c4 nonprofit citizens group, works in West Virginia's northeastern counties to protect the area's heritage of small farms and forest land and support an environmentally and socially sustainable, locally-controlled economy. We join the signers of a petition in Great Cacapon who have expressed concerns about a proposed KOA RV campground proposed by Aaron Bills on his 48 acre site on Route 9 at the junction of the Cacapon and Potomac Rivers.

While the construction of 173 oversized campsites would bring business to the area, it is likely to also bring environmental harms including sewage pollution to the river, marring of the popular viewshed at Prospect Peak, traffic that could overwhelm local roads, a population influx that could overwhelm Great Cacapon, and questions regarding trash disposal and effects of the project's well-drilling on the local fresh water table. Also, we are concerned about long term environmental effects if the project should fail, and Mr. Bills' failure to address this possibility.

We want to see a cost-benefit analysis and a thorough environmental evaluation of the KOA project. We ask Morgan County's Planning Commission, WVDEP, and the county Health Department to publicly address, and submit a plan to mitigate, all the environmental issues before the project is approved.

--Stewards of the Potomac Highlands
Bonni McKeown, president