

# MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

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October 28, 2005

Mr. Tim Greisman  
Rockburn Land Trust  
6560 Belmont Woods Road  
Elkridge, MD 21075

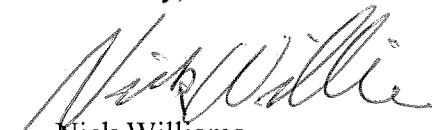
Dear Mr. Greisman,

A coalition of concerned citizens and organizations has arisen to address the impending threats to the future of the historic Belmont Conference Center and its lands, based on the reported plans of Howard Community College and its foundation. From what we have learned, those development-oriented plans appear to be at odds with the letter and spirit of the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) preservation easement on the property.

The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) has long been involved in the Belmont environs. In the late 1980's private landowners near Belmont donated conservation easements on 94 acres to MET to prevent the increase of residential density in the area, to protect the Rockburn Branch and other natural resources, and to establish buffer zones around the Belmont Center and portions of Patapsco State Park. MET has also provided technical and financial assistance to the Rockburn Land Trust in order to help this nonprofit organization pursue additional voluntary land conservation opportunities in the area. Unfortunately, the great contributions of these individuals, and the continuing conservation work of the Rockburn Land Trust, could now be undermined by the current owners of the Belmont property.

MET supports the efforts of MHT, the Rockburn Land Trust, and the Save Belmont coalition to uphold the restrictions of the MHT easement on Belmont. The historic, cultural and scenic resources of the property are unique to this part of Maryland, and must be maintained for the benefit of the public and future generations.

Sincerely,



Nick Williams  
Director