



Preservation Maryland

September 8, 2005

Dr. Mary Ellen Duncan
Howard Community College
10901 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, MD 21044

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Re: Belmont Conference Center

Dear Dr. Duncan:

Thank you very much for convening the recent public meeting regarding the future of the Belmont Conference Center as part of the College's master plan update. I applaud the stated project goals of preserving the scenic and historic character of Belmont and continuing use of the facility as a conference center.

As one of Maryland's most important historic properties, Belmont is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is protected by an easement intended to preserve its historic and scenic values. It is critical that Howard Community College work closely with the Maryland Historical Trust in the planning process to ensure that the terms of the easement are met so that the property is preserved for future generations. I am concerned that the amount of proposed new construction is unnecessary and would not comply with the terms of the easement. As the plan evolves, any new building must be carefully sited to respect the setting of the manor house and the other historic structures at the site.

I encourage you or another representative of the College to be available for questions in addition to the planning consultant at the next community meeting. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the planning process. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Tyler Gearhart
Executive Director

TG/jp

C: J. Rodney Little, Maryland Historical Trust
Mary Catherine Cochran, Preservation Howard County
✓ Timothy Greisman, Rockburn Land Trust
Kathy Hudson, Save Belmont Committee

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