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Statement on Rockwool

Leesburg, VA - 33rd District House of Delegate candidate Mavis Taintor, Blue Ridge District Supervisor candidate Tia Walbridge, and the Loudoun County Democratic Committee have written a letter to Virginia's Attorney General Mark Herring requesting intervention to protect Loudoun residents and agricultural businesses in Loudoun County from pollution coming from the Rockwool factory in West Virginia.

The new factory is a mere 8 miles from the Loudoun border. The residents of the Commonwealth have had no opportunity to give input on a factory that is likely to pour hundreds of tons of pollutants such as formaldehyde, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide into our atmosphere annually.

"The health of our families should be the top priority, not the profit of a company. Residents are justifiably worried about the impacts to their lives, they want action from leaders in the community, and assurances of safety," commented Mavis Taintor.

This region is home to a thriving small agribusiness community and a growing agri-tourism industry that ranked third in overall visits for the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2017, welcoming more than 5 million visitors who spent \$1.8 billion, an increase of 4.6% from the previous year. This region also supports 17,497 jobs, which in turn, generated more than \$695 million in wages in 2017.

"Many farmers, both large and small in the region, who are raising families and crops that contribute to our community and our economy, will all be adversely affected by this factory opening on our doorstep. It's important we address this issue now," stated Tia Walbridge.

We commend the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors for researching this issue of importance to Loudoun residents. Unfortunately, they found the County has no recourse. We are concerned about our water, our soil, and our children. As leaders and advocates for western Loudoun we are asking Attorney General Mark Herring to step in and find a solution that protects our neighbors, our economy, and our environment.

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