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**Cc:** [jessica@culturalheritagepartners.com](mailto:jessica@culturalheritagepartners.com)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Rassawek  
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Dear Sir,

I recently retired after serving as the director of the Louisa County Historical Society for ten years and am writing to add my plea to those of the Monacan Indian Nation to require a public hearing on the impact of the permit application to build the James River water intake facility on top of Rassawek. I have read and listened to the arguments on both sides and reviewed the presented documentation.

Obviously, I land on the side of the Monacans but that is not why I am motivated to write. Today protests are erupting across the nation to say America's 400 years of believing black and brown and red people "have no rights which the white man is are bound to respect." must end with us, now. (The Dred Scott Decision, 1857). At its core, the contest here is between what is important to the Monacan tribe and what is important to the (mostly) white men on the Louisa and Fluvanna County Boards of Supervisors and the Water Authority they appointed: the sacredness of the land, heritage and the honoring of the ancestors on the one hand, and money (and the land and people that have to be sacrificed to make it) on the other. It always has been that way here.

I don't need to publicly inflame feelings more by bringing into the appeal making right the wrongs of black lynchings in Louisa and Fluvanna, although I can give you the dates and names if you want them. And I don't need to bring in the names of Indians wrongly enslaved for generations here, but their stories are real and they are tragic. Nor do I need to remind anyone traveling down I-64 today that they will still be greeted by the giant Confederate Flag as they pass the Louisa/Fluvanna line. That flag speaks clearly about the disregard here for the appeals to do away with symbols and systems of racism. But a decision to honor the request on the Monacans, now, in this instance, by withholding this permit and forcing a public hearing for consideration to relocate the intake site would go a long way toward acknowledging some of these historic and continuing harms.

The truth is a small group of white elites has historically dominated decisions here in Central Virginia. That truth is not going to be changed by that same group of elites voting against their own interests. It will only be changed by the intervention of an entity with more authority than they have. I implore you and the Army Corp of Engineers to be that authority.

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