



# MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF BOONSBORO

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October 29, 2018

To: Jefferson County Officials and Community Members  
From: Mayor Howard Long, Boonsboro  
Subject: Opposition Statement on Rockwool Plant Proposed for Jefferson County, West Virginia

As Mayor of Boonsboro, I, and the Boonsboro Town Council, strongly oppose the Rockwool plant that has been proposed for Jefferson County, West Virginia.

We understand the plant would likely emit toxic particulate matter into the air to within 35 miles of the plant. Boonsboro is 17 miles from Ranson, WV, site of the plant. The toxins projected to be released into the air are either poisonous or carcinogenic. This pollution could greatly affect air quality for our children, elderly and compromised individuals sensitive to toxic chemicals. Visibility could be greatly diminished from the top of our Washington Monument (named after George Washington). Presently, one can see as far away as West Virginia. If the Rockwool plant is constructed, this amazing scenic view could be highly compromised as well.

There are many organic farms and gardens in our area. These crops would likely be affected in an adverse way, contaminating the soil. Toxins affect bees, and bees are essential for pollination.

The water quality of our beloved Potomac River and nearby streams and wetlands could also be affected, along with the habitat they support. Rockwool intends to withdraw 125,000-500,000 gallons of water per day during production. As we already know, underground karst geology is present in this area and VERY sensitive to disruption.

Although the exact route(s) of rock transportation is unknown, trucks could come rumbling through Boonsboro, a main thoroughfare to West Virginia. Our town cannot support these trucks and does not want the noise pollution these trucks would likely produce. Our historic "sleepy" town would like to remain "sleepy."

It is critical that Jefferson County officials immediately pause work at the site and conduct an independent review of the permit, plant operations and the environmental impact to the ENTIRE region, both in West Virginia AND Maryland. The Rockwool executives should work with and not against the communities it affects. Until that time, we oppose construction of this plant.

Howard Long, Mayor  
Town of Boonsboro