



Resolution 2018-10-004:

**REQUESTING VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH AND LOUDOUN COUNTY
AUTHORITIES AND STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATORS USE ANY AND ALL
LEGAL POWERS TO HALT CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROCKWOOL FACILITY IN
JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, PERMITTED TO EMIT 392 TONS OF
HAZARDOUS POLLUTION ANNUALLY INTO THE AIR RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN
OF HILLSBORO AND LOUDOUN COUNTY MUST BREATHE**

MOTION: Moskal

SECOND: Oxman

WHEREAS, the historic Town of Hillsboro and nationally recognized Hillsboro Historic District is situated in the gap of the Short Hill Mountains in the rural Northwest quadrant of Loudoun County, surrounded by mountain side forests and historic and productive farmlands, recreational and scenic attractions, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hillsboro has been at the forefront in the efforts to preserve the Greater Hillsboro historic assets, conserve and support the area farmlands and rural essence, and protect the environmental quality of the area, and the revitalization of the area's economy that is based on agricultural production, agro-tourism and recreational-based tourism, and

WHEREAS, in the past 15 years the Greater Hillsboro area has seen the establishment of more than a dozen vineyards and wineries, farm breweries, numerous small specialty farming operations and a continuation of centuries-old traditional farming and livestock operations, all dependent on clean air and water, and

WHEREAS, the Greater Hillsboro area has seen a significant growth of tourism and the expansion of leisure travel accommodations to encompass the largest concentration of bed & breakfast inns in Loudoun County, hosting thousands of visitors seeking to enjoy the rural surroundings and recreational activities as well as the mountain vistas and clean air, and

WHEREAS, the northwest quadrant of Loudoun County is culturally and economically dependent upon an environment free from excessive air and water pollution that would harm its citizens' health, degrade its agricultural products, inhibit and discourage tourism and devalue its citizens' quality of life and property values, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hillsboro is situated within five miles of the West Virginia border and within 10 miles of the city of Ranson, West Virginia, and the Greater Hillsboro area fully abuts and shares a 17-mile border with Jefferson County, West Virginia, and

WHEREAS, the prevailing winds reaching the northwest quadrant of Loudoun County bring with it air and any pollution contained therein directly from Jefferson County, West Virginia, impacting the people, water, livestock and plants in Loudoun County, and

WHEREAS, the State of West Virginia has granted the Rockwool corporation a permit for the release of 392 tons per year of hazardous air pollution, to be emitted from a proposed manufacturing plant in the Town of Ranson, West Virginia, approximately 10 miles from the Town of Hillsboro, and

WHEREAS, currently the measured hazardous air pollution emitted in Jefferson County, West Virginia and Loudoun County, Virginia is negligible, and

WHEREAS, the 392 tons per year of hazardous air pollution to be permitted by the State of West Virginia will be most concentrated and have the most direct and detrimental impact on the health of the Virginian citizens of the Town of Hillsboro and Loudoun, its agricultural products, its businesses and its natural attributes so dependent on clean air and water, and

WHEREAS, the State of West Virginia, the County of Jefferson, West Virginia, and the Town of Ranson, West Virginia, have provided financial assistance and forgivable loans to the Rockwool corporation to encourage the establishment of this facility in close proximity to the Town of Hillsboro and Loudoun County, Virginia, and

WHEREAS, thousands of residents of Jefferson County, West Virginia, and Loudoun County, Virginia, have organized to appeal for reconsideration of the permit for the release of 392 tons per year of hazardous air pollution from the Rockwool facility and,

WHEREAS, the health of the citizens and economy of the Town of Hillsboro and Loudoun County will be directly imperiled by the action of emitting 392 tons of hazardous air pollution annually into the air that the residents of and visitors to the Town of Hillsboro and Loudoun County must breathe, and

WHEREAS, it is the duty and obligation of the elected and appointed officials of the Town of Hillsboro, Loudoun County and Commonwealth of Virginia to exercise any and all powers to protect the life, health and wellbeing of their citizens,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Hillsboro Town Council that the Town of Hillsboro requests the Governor and Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and the Town of Hillsboro's state and Federal legislative representatives take any and all legal action to immediately bring to a halt the construction of the Rockwool facility until a more comprehensive study of the impact on Virginia has been completed, including a designated geographic impact zone for air quality, drinking and ground water sources, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if in the event the facility becomes operational, a monitoring plan including baseline and recurring air quality sampling be implemented and all costs of study and monitoring are borne by Jefferson County or the State of West Virginia.

VOTE:

AYES: Vance, Moskal, Marasco, Oxman, Forbes

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT FOR VOTE: Johnston

APPROVED October 29, 2018



ROGER L. VANCE, MAYOR

ATTEST: 

CLAUDIA FORBES, ACTING RECORDER