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Sharpsburg, Maryland Statement of Opposition against Proposed Rockwool Ranson Factory

At our Town Meeting on September 10, 2018, the town of Sharpsburg, Maryland was informed by a group of concerned citizens about the plans for the proposed Rockwool factory in Jefferson County, WV. This site would be located just 13 miles from our historic town.

Sharpsburg is the second oldest town in Washington County, Maryland. We are historic because the Battle of Antietam was fought here, and at the nearby Antietam National Battlefield. Thousands of visitors frequent our town annually, creating much vehicular and foot traffic. We have pedestrian crosswalks and congested intersections. Sharpsburg is a 25 mile per hour zone, and there is a school within the town limits.

Our Mayor and Town Council have many unanswered questions about the proposed Rockwool factory and the introduction of more heavy industry to our region in general. We are concerned about the negative impacts this would have on the environment, the potential for increased traffic, and the subsequent effects on our citizens' public health and quality of life. There also seems to be a genuine potential for adverse effects on the local tourism economy.

It seems clear to us that Sharpsburg, Maryland has nothing to gain from Rockwool or any increase of heavy industry. Sharpsburg, therefore, will stand firm in its support of our neighboring municipalities who have opposed this project, including Harper's Ferry, WV and Shepherdstown, WV. We are committed to educating our citizens about the project, and we encourage other neighboring municipalities to join us in opposition.

