



September 13, 2018

The Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Historic Town Foundation's mission is to preserve historic resources and promote our community. We envision Harpers Ferry and Bolivar as one vibrant community with an engaged citizenry, 19th century character, and 21st century service, preserving each town's rich heritage and robust economy. Our core values include valuing the historic and natural resources of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar and recognizing that these resources need to be protected and preserved. The scenic beauty of our region along with the outdoor recreation opportunities it offers is key to ensuring this area remains vibrant and successful for our residents and visitors alike.

The proposed Rockwool facility, located in nearby Ranson, WV has raised many serious concerns among members of the Foundation's Board. The 21-story smokestacks will be emitting 470 tons of Volatile Organic Compounds and 239 tons of nitrogen oxides per year. In addition, the 460,000+ square foot facility, with twenty-four/seven operations, will create increased noise, light pollution and traffic, including staging for 100+ tractor trailers per day. In addition to health and environmental concerns, there is also the possibility of contamination to our primary water source, the Elks Run Watershed.

The Foundation understands that our area's continued popularity and attraction for visitors is dependent on our preserving our historic and environmental resources. We also join our neighbors in demanding a safe and healthy community. A factory of this size and with the potential for significant negative impact to our air, water and viewsheds, is of great concern.

Because of this, the Foundation supports the immediate stop to all work currently underway at the Rockwool site. It is imperative that further evaluation as to the impacts from the factory be undertaken. In addition, the Foundation is unlikely to support any economic development plans for our county in the future that include heavy industrial manufacturing similar in scope and size to the Rockwool facility.