BRMCA position statement on proposed Eastwind Blue Ridge Development

Guided by our mission, the BRMCA opposes commercial development on our mountain, including the Mountain Resort LLC development proposal for "Eastwind Blue Ridge" on the ridge at the southern entrance of Blue Ridge Mountain Road overlooking the Crooked Run Valley. The "boutique getaway" would destroy forest cover, degrade wildlife habitat, scar scenic and historic viewsheds, increase traffic, and threaten already diminishing supplies of safe groundwater while permanently altering the character of our community.

The pre-application concept plan for the 146-acre development as of 10/13/25 includes the following:

- Hotel (two structures)
- Restaurant with 88-seat capacity
- Spa
- Parking areas
- Well(s) for a minimum of 9,000 gallons of water per day
- Septic/drainfield system to accommodate hotel and restaurant (undetermined)
- Access and egress using the one lane Mt Weather Road from westbound Route 50 at Ashby Gap and onto 601at the hairpin turn just south of Appalachian Trail parking lot
- Plans for weddings and other events

The 146-acre development proposal encompasses parcels in Clarke, Loudoun, and Fauquier counties, but the concept plan locates all structures in Loudoun County to avoid Clarke's and Fauquier's more protective zoning. The proposal faces numerous obstacles, and opposition is widespread and growing.

The owners/developers have intensively logged the property in part to create road access to the high elevation site. Loudoun County planning staff's response to the concept plan identified elements that would require special exceptions; the resort as currently proposed is *not* a "by-right" development in Loudoun County. Staff further noted that this part of the Mountain Overlay District includes "sensitive areas" and "moderate to very steep slopes."

The developers' vision for our mountain would be catastrophic for those who have made their homes here and who would live every day with the consequences including:

- Even greater traffic volume on a road never intended for the capacity it already bears, including routine speeding and reckless driving, especially on weekends.
- Demand for water equivalent to dozens of houses in an area where wells are already going dry and groundwater levels are dropping (see <u>Loudoun County Groundwater</u> <u>Study – Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition</u>)

BRMCA will be closely monitoring the resort proposal in coordination with partner organizations. We will update this page with new information as it becomes available.

What You Can Do Now

- **Stay informed:** Join our email list if you are not already on it. We will not inundate you with email, but we will notify you of new information and opportunities for action. You can track the proposal in Loudoun County's <u>LandMarc system</u>.
- Get the word out: Let your friends and neighbors in Clarke, Loudoun, and Fauquier counties know about the proposed commercial development on Paris Mountain. If you are a member of other local conservation groups, let them know your concerns and ask for their support.

Communicate with your Supervisor:

If you are a Loudoun County resident

Email Little River District supervisor Laura Tekrony at laura.tekrony@loudoun.gov
Supervisor Tekrony has been and is a staunch supporter of protecting rural Loudoun and opposes the resort proposal. Thank Supervisor Tekrony and let her know that she speaks for you as a constituent in opposition to commercial development of our mountain.

If you are a Clarke County resident

Email Millwood District supervisor Terri Catlett at tcatlett@clarkecounty.gov Clarke County residents of Blue Ridge Mountain Road would be as affected by this development as Loudoun residents and deserve to have a voice. Let Supervisor Catlett know that you support all possible interventions by Clarke officials to prevent the use of Clarke County land and route 601 to serve the proposed resort. Copy all members of the Board of Supervisors: dsakecounty.gov; dsakecounty.gov; dlawrence@clarkecounty.gov; dmckay@clarkecounty.gov; dlawrence@clarkecounty.gov; bmckay@clarkecounty.gov; dsakecounty.gov; bmckay@clarkecounty.gov; dsakecounty.gov; bmckay@clarkecounty.gov;