

FLORENTINE FILMS

Ken Burns

January 5, 2022

Ann Wheeler, Chair
Prince William Board of County Supervisors
1 County Complex Court
Prince William, Virginia 22192

Dear Chair Wheeler,

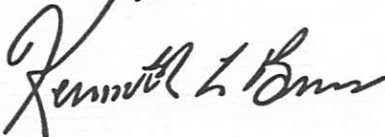
I have become aware of a proposal before your Board to develop something called the Prince William Digital Gateway on the western boundary of Manassas National Battlefield. I am also in receipt of a letter addressed to you by the Superintendent calling this proposal "the single greatest threat to Manassas National Battlefield Park in nearly three decades."

The warning of the Superintendent should not be taken lightly. As a student and chronicler of American history for more than 40 years, I can attest to how fragile our precious heritage is and how susceptible it can be to the ravages of "progress." I learned while making my documentary series *The Civil War* in the late 1980s—and again when I made my 2009 series on the history of the national parks—how crucial the preservation of our historic landscapes is, and I fear the devastating impact the development of up to 2,133 acres of data centers will have on this hallowed ground.

I implore you to seek more appropriate options for this planned development.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Ken Burns