

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Nicholas Redding
Executive Director
Cell: 301-401-1510
nredding@presmd.org



George Washington's Mount Vernon's Maryland Viewshed Listed as One of America's Most Endangered Historic Places

Mount Vernon, VA – [June 26, 2018] On the East lawn of George Washington's historic Mount Vernon, Preservation Maryland joined with local elected officials, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, to announce the selection of the viewshed of Mount Vernon as one of *America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places*.

The listing comes as Dominion Energy plans to construct a natural gas compressor station, with stacks potentially reaching as tall as 113 feet, directly across the Potomac River from Mount Vernon — an act that could damage the pristine landscape that has changed little over the last two centuries. The planned station, to be built in Charles County, Maryland and adjacent to Piscataway National Park, is located in a rural conservation zone, bordering land that is protected under conservation easements.

Since the 1950s, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association has worked tirelessly to protect the nearby shoreline and view from encroachments that would ruin the vista that George Washington treasured. Working with Maryland communities and organization, Mount Vernon's leadership has placed scenic easements on 415 Maryland properties.

Preservation Maryland Executive Director Nicholas Redding explained, "Mount Vernon may be physically located in Virginia – but the stunning view which inspired President Washington lies in Maryland. As the statewide preservation organization, we join with the Mount Vernon Ladies Association to reject this careless and damaging proposal. George Washington's legacy deserves much better from Dominion Energy."

Preservation Maryland joins with national, regional and local partners to reject this proposal. The organization is also launching an online petition to gather names of

individuals opposed to this damaging plan. Concerned citizens from across the country are encouraged to sign the petition at: presmd.org/mountvernon

###

Founded in 1931, Preservation Maryland is the state's first and foremost historic preservation non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Maryland's historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes, and archaeological sites through outreach, funding, and advocacy.

Learn more at: presmd.org