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To Whom It May Concern:

Lombardo Associates, Inc. (LAI) was retained in 2007 by Springfield Township, Bucks County, PA to prepare a comprehensive sewage facilities plan that would meet the requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). As I write this recommendation, all technical aspects of the plan have been completed and reviewed, and its adoption awaits only a final public meeting and approval by PADEP. My role, as chairman of the township's Planning Commission, was to assist in specifying the conditions of the contract, oversee review by the Planning Commission, and recommend the plan to the Board of Supervisors.

Springfield Township is a rural township in eastern Pennsylvania that contains four small villages, the Cooks Creek watershed that has been designated an Exceptional Value Stream, a valley (which contains the largest of the villages) underlain by carbonate rocks that exhibit karst features, and is transected on one end by a major highway between Philadelphia and Allentown. The Township's Comprehensive Plan calls for retention of its rural character and protection of the sensitive environmental systems within its borders, while accommodating anticipated residential and commercial growth.

To this end, the Township Supervisors retained LAI to develop a sewage facilities plan that would (1) minimize the need for centralized sewers in favor of on-site wastewater disposal or appropriately sized community systems for cluster developments or existing housing on small lots, (2) include a proposed wastewater management ordinance, and (3) incorporate geographic information system (GIS) coverages that would provide a factual, lot-by-lot basis for wastewater system selection.

Lombardo Associates developed a comprehensive set of GIS databases characterizing soils, topography, bedrock, ground- and surface-water data, roads, lots (with associated tax parcel numbers), and position of buildings, wells, and existing wastewater systems. Based on this information, LAI evaluated each parcel in the Township for its suitability for on-lot wastewater treatment and for the type

of system best suited to provide optimal treatment. As a result, at a public meeting, citizens were able to determine, in both visual and written formats, the environmental constraints associated with their properties and the recommended wastewater treatment solutions. Township officials had expected considerable resistance to the plan's recommendations, but instead found intense interest and general satisfaction with, or at least understanding of, the results.

LAI delivered the specified elements of the sewage facilities plan in a timely fashion and on budget. Their recommendations will result in no further work for LAI related to this project.

While I cannot speak for other township officials, I am very pleased the results of LAI's work. The specificity of their analysis means that, for the first time ever, we have detailed environmental data on every parcel in the Township. Those data will allow a much more thorough analysis of wastewater systems proposed for future development and for remediation of existing, malfunctioning systems.



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