

Public statement by five dissenting Board members of the American Horticultural Society (AHS) – for release on 4/23/21

The proposed sale of River Farm by the American Horticultural Society (“AHS”) has been a key issue addressed by *Virginia State Senator Scott Surovell* over the past year.

We five members of the Board of Directors of the American Horticultural Society (“AHS”) (comprising 50% of the voting members of our Board of Directors) oppose the proposed sale. Notwithstanding our earnest efforts to convince our Board colleagues to reverse course, the five controlling Board members have asked us, the dissenting Board members, to be silent while they proceed to sell the property against our objections.

While we cannot speak for the organization, we can speak for ourselves. We want the supporters of AHS and the public in general to know that we have opposed and continue to oppose the sale of River Farm. We believe AHS can and should continue to steward the property in accordance with the public promises made by the Society for nearly 50 years, and we will continue to do all in our power to accomplish that purpose.

There is growing evidence that the decision to sell River Farm is not only morally and ethically wrong, but is fraught with serious legal issues. We hope that all of those who care about AHS, about our irreplaceable headquarters at River Farm, and the importance of non-profit charities honoring promises to donors will support us in our efforts to save both AHS and River Farm. We call on our donors, supporters, volunteers, and governmental authorities to speak out on this issue, and join us in our effort to reverse the unfortunate decision by the controlling members of the Board to sell River Farm.

Sincerely,

s/Tim Conlon
s/Skipp Calvert
s/Laura Dowling
s/Holly Shimizu
s/Marcia Zech