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**CITIZENS FILE APPEAL TO STOP CONCRETE PLANT PROPOSED FOR LAND
NEAR SHAW NATURE RESERVE**

Citizens Ask Trial Court to Overturn Franklin County Board of Zoning Adjustment

On August 21, 2014, citizens filed an appeal to the Franklin County Circuit Court, asking it to overturn the Conditional Use Permit issued by the Franklin County Board of Zoning Adjustment allowing a developer to build a concrete plant on land very close to the world-renowned Missouri Botanical Garden's Shaw Nature Reserve. The citizens are assisted by Great Rivers Environmental Law Center in their appeal, and challenge the conditional use permit for several reasons.

Landvatter Ready Mix, Inc. proposes to build a ready-mix concrete plant on tree-covered hills just 600 feet from the Nature Reserve in Franklin County. There are houses and apartments in the area in between the Nature Reserve and the proposed plant. The homeowners believe the proposed plant will cause them to breathe in dust, suffer from noise and increased traffic, and that the wildlife, fishes, birds, flora and fauna in the Nature Reserve will also suffer from the plant.

In their appeal to the Circuit Court, the citizens argue that the conditional use permit is invalid because it violates Franklin County zoning codes and Missouri state law since the proposed concrete plant endangers public health and safety, decreases the value of adjoining property, is not in harmony with the area in which it is located, and is not in conformity with the Franklin County Master Plan.

Kelly Brothers, a resident whose house sits right in between the Nature Reserve and the proposed concrete plant, said, "This concrete plant should not be built here. Our property values will plummet. The wildlife and birds that depend on the Nature Reserve will suffer."

"Concrete plants do not belong on property 600 feet from a highly significant Nature Reserve," said Kathleen Henry, attorney at Great Rivers Environmental Law Center. "Concrete plants also should not be built so close to residential property."

The citizens request the Franklin County Circuit Court to reverse the decision of the Board of Zoning Adjustment.