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January 27, 2012

Mr. Philip J. Kotschenreuther, Esq. Brown, Brown & Young 200 South Main Street Bel Air, MD 21014

Warrant No.100

Dear Mr. Kotschenreuther:

This letter concerns the evidence to be presented before or during the public hearing in support of the applicant's claim that the alleged vacancy meets the statutory definition of vacant land, i. e. "vacant land means land for which a patent never has been issued or for which the applicant believes that a patent never has been issued." You will be expected to present evidence that no valid patent covers any part of the alleged vacancy. The burden of proof is on the applicant. This can best be done by title searches, which should, at a minimum, show the chain of deeds, equity cases, land commissions and any other court proceedings back to the original patents surrounding the alleged vacancy. The title abstract completed by KB Abstracts should be supplemented by a more detailed narrative of the deeds in the chain-of-title and how they relate to the original patents.

Your surveyor should attend the hearing to present testimony on why he ran the survey lines as shown on his survey and to present evidence on why he identified certain survey lines as patent lines. For example, the third line of his survey is also identified as the 16<sup>th</sup> line of the patent for "Prospect." He will also be asked to place any corner of the survey on the ground and if that corner can be identified historically, especially in relation to a patent corner or deed corner.

The hearing will take place in March in Annapolis and I will contact you shortly to determine a mutually agreeable date and time. The hearing before the Commissioner will be held in accordance with Administrative Procedure Act. Please see COMAR 14.18.01.10 (copy enclosed) for additional information concerning a hearing before the Commissioner. A prehearing conference may, upon due notice, be held for the purpose of defining issues, entering stipulations and resolving other matters preliminary to the hearing. Please contact me if you have any questions (410-260-6407).

Sincerely yours, Richard D. Ruhaudan

Richard H. Richardson

**Deputy Commissioner of Land Patents**