

## Town Clerk

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**From:** Paula Welling <welling.paula@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:17 AM  
**To:** Town Clerk  
**Cc:** Ross Brinkerhoff  
**Subject:** Please Pass Proposed Moratorium

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed development of a Dollar General in Caroline.

My husband and I moved to the area in 2017 and recently purchased a home on Landon Road. As relative newcomers to the community, I can say definitively that the town that attracted us--one that feels rural but neighborly, and one with a vibrant local business, Brookton's Market, at its center--is not the kind of town that would include a Dollar General. While we would welcome other forms of development in Caroline, we think that development should prioritize locally owned businesses that offer real jobs and real value to the community. We also feel strongly that any development should not damage the rural character of the town: the farmland, the beautiful views, the natural areas, the walkability of our roads, and the lack of sprawl.

Dollar General stores have a clear record of attempting to prey on low-income communities, and some researchers argue that they play a role in creating and maintaining economic distress, in part because they create only a small number of low-paying jobs and damage other local businesses ([CityLab](#)). On top of that, there are already five dollar stores in the Ithaca area. We simply do not need another. This is not the type of development that Caroline needs, and it is not the type of development that the Ithaca area needs, either.

Finally, I feel strongly that we need to consider the environmental impact of development. I know that a box, chain store with a paved parking lot, built without taking pedestrian access into account, is not an environmental win on any count. What will happen to the foxes, deer, coyote, and countless birds, amphibians, and insects who currently live in that field and the surrounding areas? How will the runoff from the parking lot and increased traffic affect surrounding fields? How does this development move Caroline in the direction of sustainable development? (Easy answer: It doesn't.)

I urge the board to pass the proposed moratorium so that the town can complete the process of revising the comprehensive plan. We all need to decide what kind of town we want Caroline to be today and to become in the future. I am confident that the strong majority of our community agree that this Dollar General does not fit in that picture.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,  
Paula Welling  
Ross Brinkerhoff

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