

Support for the Moratorium on Commercial Development and Vehement Opposition to the Retail Development on 79 at Landon Rd

Rose Fritzky-Randolph <rosefritzkyrandolph@gmail.com>
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Town Clerk; Mark Witmer; John Fracchia; Cal Snow; Irene Weiser; Tim Murray+2 others

To Whom it May Concern:

My wife, our 9-month-old son, and I live on Hickory Trail, which runs parallel to 79. Our home is located right across the street from where this proposed construction would take place. We are vehemently opposed to this project moving forward. We have signed the petition for a moratorium on commercial development and have encouraged others to do the same.

I echo the sentiment of one of my fellow community members who said, "This type of cheaply built retail store which preys on low-income rural communities is frightening on so many levels and does not honor our agricultural roots and vibrant community." I cannot even fathom what this would do, not only to our beautiful view and peaceful environment, but to the traffic (there have been multiple accidents at this location), the agriculture, local businesses like Brookton's Market, real estate values... the list goes on and on. Watching this multi-billion dollar corporation effectively take over our local community (because historically... that's what happens), would absolutely break my heart.

Since this debate began, I've heard only one case made for this development to go forward: A box-store that sells cheap stuff could be convenient for low-income community members in the area, so who are we to stand in the way? While I can understand that gut-reaction, I find it so incredibly counterproductive. There are countless better, healthier, more effective, and more economically sound ways of helping low-income communities than providing them with yet another box-store notorious for being filthy, for paying low wages, and for contributing not only to the GROWTH of food deserts but also to the DECLINE of local businesses. Collectively, we have the resources and ingenuity to help our community in a myriad of ways, but this is NOT one of them. Arguing for this development to go forward is essentially arguing that the cheap, imported, and often unhealthy items these stores manufacture are all our low-income community members deserve. We can and should do better!

Not to mention, there are already FIVE other Dollar General locations within a 7-20 mile distance. But, that's the Dollar General corporation's M.O., right? Build in clusters. Inundate and prey upon rural areas, not giving a care as to whether or not a new location is needed or wanted, whether or not it benefits the community at large or is even successful. This store would not only ruin the aesthetic of our charming

neighborhood and most certainly cause traffic and agricultural concerns (we're looking into how it will affect the water supply as well), but in time, it will decrease the value of every single home in this residential area.

My wife is an agent with Carol Bushberg Real Estate who has sold multiple properties in Caroline. She knows first-hand what draw people to this area... the rural character and community of Caroline, a town that values the preservation of its agriculture and biodiversity and chooses to support businesses that uplift its peaceful and progressive nature. It is certainly what inspired us to buy our home here seven years ago. This corporation does not reflect our values and this development goes against everything I know to be true about our vibrant, compassionate, and locally supportive community.

From the bottoms of our hearts, we are asking that you approve the 180 Day Moratorium on Commercial Development so that the 2020 Comprehensive Plan can be completed and help shape our beloved Town of Caroline moving forward.

Thank you all for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Rose and KiRa Fritzky-Randolph
9 Hickory Trail