

Hand County Board of Commissioners

From: Eleanor Iverson <eieiooh@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 1:45 PM
To: assessor.handcoem@midconetwork.com;
commissioners.handcounty@midconetwork.com
Subject: Pipestone/Ratio LLC

I am writing this email to encourage you to vote against the CUP for Ratio LLC. I do not enter into this discussion lightly as I was raised on a hog farm and have some knowledge of the hog industry and its challenges. However, this project is not right for Hand County.

The first consideration should be for the health and general welfare of the people in that area. I know you have received much opposition from people living in the area of the proposed hog barn.

The second consideration should be for the environment. The close proximity to Waterfowl Production Areas is alarming to say the least. I believe if you were to poll downtown business people they would say that hunting season in Hand County is the biggest economic boost they have all year. It won't take very long for word to spread if there is toxic runoff into that Waterfowl production area and avid hunters will begin to avoid Hand County. If a prized hunting dog dies from drinking toxic water, word will spread even faster. You have received testimony from US Fish and Wildlife cautioning the potential hazards.

A third consideration is the economic concerns for Hand County. Do you have hard numbers that prove that tax benefits will outweigh the increased road maintenance costs? I don't mean assumptions, but hard numbers. Or will we someday find ourselves in an opt-out situation to pay for road expenses not incurred by Hand County citizens? We all know our roads were not designed for the kind of truck traffic we currently have, much less the huge increase in heavy truck traffic this will result in.

After reading the minutes from the last commissioner meeting I noticed that people in the area of the Christianson Hog farm are not very happy. They did not voice opposition before this project was approved, probably trusting that our ordinances would take care of them and that you as commissioners would be looking out for their best interests. Hind sight is always 20-20. Huge projects such as this always come with far reaching consequences that cannot always be predicted or imagined. I am sure they now regret not paying closer attention to the project in its beginning phases.

I have read testimony from the Reimnitz family who live close to the Jackrabbit Family Farms CAFO which Kecia Beranek visited. Common sense tells us that the experiences of someone who has lived in close proximity to a hog confinement is certainly more valid than an afternoon outing.

I thank you whole heartedly for doing your due diligence on this project. I know you have all put hours and hours of research into this. Above all I know that you respect the citizens of Hand County, value our clean air and water, and will take seriously the task before you. If this project is approved, and the environment is damaged, and costs outweigh benefits, it will be too late to undo the harm. Please take seriously the input from people who have "been there, done that".

Sincerely,
Eleanor Iverson

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