

Kelly S. Lundgren

From: CJ Caudill <cj@schaeferstv.com>
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 1:35 PM
To: Commish
Subject: HPRM: Proposed Poultry Operation

Good Afternoon Roma,

I'm writing to you out of concern for the proposed Poultry Operation on 13350 W. Wittstruck Rd. Resolution #PC-01614.

I see that you live on an acreage in the southeast area of the county. I'm sure if this operation was being proposed in your area, you too would oppose such construction and would understand our objections to such a proposal. Here are our concerns...

We are opposed to the construction of such an operation in our area due to property valuation concerns, availability of water supplies and truck traffic.

We are not like most of the property owners in our area, as we do not own 20 or more acres and are not rated as agricultural when it comes to our tax valuation. We were only able to purchase our home and 5 acres 14 years ago and over the past year we have invested over \$150,000 in necessary repairs and improvement to our home.

We had several other ideas to improve on the looks and value of our property, but with the proposed Costco Poultry Operation just down the road from us, we feel our property value will be diminished to a level that basically leaves us "in the hole". We certainly are NOT going to invest good money into a property that will draw no interest in the future for sale or future improvements!

We moved to the country and accepted living on a dirt road for the peace and tranquility of the country life and to have good neighbors within "shouting distance" unlike the conditions of living within the city limits. To have the added traffic created by a poultry operation was not what we bought into 14yrs ago or today!

Unfortunately we did not find out until after our purchase that our well water is one of the worse wells in the county. We've managed to invest in ways of improving our water within our home, but with the obvious concerns of this poultry operation and the demands it will take on the water sources in the area, it once again raises a big concern.

I realize Costco is a major player with billions of dollars to spend in order to see this poultry operation formed and we are just "the little guy", but our tax dollars count and our voices speak volumes.

We will be looking at any and all politicians supporting this project for future elections and we will be contacting the county assessor regarding a massive reduction in our property taxes and valuation of our property. We will discontinue any future plans for property improvements so that we don't lose any more money that we are likely to lose now.

Please stand with the citizens of Lancaster County and do not approve this operation! There are many areas in Lancaster county that Costco could consider that are more suited for this type of operation and would not impact an area that is so developed with homes.

Thank you for your time.

Brian and Connie Caudill
11801 W. Wittstruck Rd

cjc1820@yahoo.com

***CJ Caudill
Controller
Schaefer's, Inc.
402-465-1608 (Direct #)
402-464-8891 (Fax #)
cj@schaeferstv.com***

RECEIVED

AUG 28 2018

LANCASTER COUNTY
BOARD

Dear Roma Admundson,

I am writing to you concerning the four proposed chicken barns which I consider industrial and not agricultural that Costco and Randy Essink plan to build six tenths of a mile north of my acreage residence straight north of me. My address is 13200 West Parker Road Crete Nebraska.

I visited with Larry Hudkins, a retired planning commission member and he told me that you lived on an acreage and had an agricultural background. Larry is an old acquaintance of mine and thought you would be a good commissioner to talk to. He spoke very highly of you and knew that like me you lived on an acreage. I am sure you live on an acreage to get away from the noise and busy streets of town just as my wife and I did and we have lived out here for 37 plus years. I have spent all my free time working to clean up and build a better house and buildings for my acreage. We built a small pond for my sons and grandchildren to enjoy and do not see where this addition to the neighborhood would be beneficial for my neighbors and me. I love sitting outside on one of my two decks that I have built and as a matter of fact am sitting on the East one right now as I am typing you this letter. I just do not feel with the addition of this operation it would allow me to continue with my life in the way that I enjoy it now. I have COPD and need to have fresh air to continue to enjoy this.

My wife and I have spent many hour researching various articles written about these types of operations and the harm they have caused areas close to them. I hope you have had the opportunity to read the material we as a neighborhood group filed with the planning commission on this very subject.

I have listened to Jessica Kolterman call us uneducated about chicken barns and also heard her say in a planning commission meeting that she had come out here and talked to four of the area farmers....well I have known most of the people that have lived out here over the years and I have contacted everyone in the neighborhood and not 1 person can recall her ever being out here or even talking to her. She has been untruthful about that so why should we believe her about the affect these barns are going to have on surrounding neighbors or anything else she claims. Maybe if she would have made an attempt to come out and talk to us and tell us how great these barns are we as a neighborhood would feel differently about them. Everything I have ever heard her say is how great these are going to be for the area. She claims that they are going to be economically beneficial to the area. I don't see how with only one man, Randy Essink, running the operation, who can't even answer questions presented to him about the operation of these barns, without referring to one of the Costco people to answer questions for him. An operation this big is going to have this man operating it and we as neighbors are supposed to feel good about it. This whole thing appears to me to be Costco and not a private individual who claims he just wants to make money. I do not see how he can ever recoup his investment in this operation.

I am concerned about what effect this operation is going to have on our ground water. A retired State of Nebraska environmental employee, Jack L. Daniels, has told me that there is not enough water out here to support the two 80 gallon per minute wells Costco tells Randy he has to have to support the barns, as one of them is only a spare in case one fails, I can't afford to replace my well with one deeper when the present one goes dry from the barns use of water. For many years they haven't allowed irrigation wells out here because of the lack of water. The only pivot in the area is very limited to the times or lengths of times that it can run without running out of water or running the neighbors out of water. This pivot is about a mile or less from the proposed site of the barns

Also a concern is the effect of runoff water getting into the ground water. Our water here is already overloaded with nitrates and iron so what will these barns do to that?

I could go on and on but I would probably just be repeating what you commissioners have already read from the planning commission documents.

I am just concerned that this is not the proper place to build this. There are 75 homes around in this area, one of them only a quarter of a mile north of the proposed site. How would you feel about one of these operations being built in your neighborhood. If it does get built, so much for the "Good Life of Nebraska. Please reconsider this application and vote no against the ruination of life for 200 people that live around here.

Thanks for listening and I hope to meet you at one of the board meetings. I also want to mention that I am not against agricultural endeavors but this is not agricultural but industrial. I was one of the many licensed electricians that opposed the State Legislatures attempts to change the National Electrical Code to allow apprentices to do more work on these structures, that is where I had my first run-in with Ms Kolterman. Check on LB 921. We got this defeated because of obvious safety concerns we as electricians had. We have as electricians tried to make buildings safer on farms and business. This bill would have taken that safety away.....just to save a few dollars. By the way....these barns have to be wired to INDUSTRIAL codes....not agricultural codes. You tell me what they really are. I am now retired and my wife is going to retire in December. Please let us enjoy our retirement in the home and acreage we have worked and saved to enjoy. Thanks for reading this and feel free to contact me at skeetkar@hotmail.com or give me a call at 402-418-1287. Thanks again.



William and Janis Howlett

13200 West Parker Road

Crete NE 68333

Kelly S. Lundgren

From: County Clerk
Sent: Friday, August 31, 2018 8:50 AM
To: Kelly S. Lundgren; Monet J. McCullen
Subject: FW: SPECIAL PERMIT # 18025

From: john becker [mailto:jjbecker325@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2018 3:44 PM
To: County Clerk <CoClerk@lancaster.ne.gov>
Cc: john becker <jjbecker325@gmail.com>
Subject: SPECIAL PERMIT # 18025

We would like to add our names to the hundreds of landowners, residents and concerned individuals who are opposed to the County Special Permit #18025 granted to Randy Essink to operate a chicken factory just off of SW 128th and West Wittstruck Road. My wife and her sister are the third generation to own this property and hopefully their children and grandchildren will bring that total to five generations. Our parcel of land sits less than one mile east of the proposed permit at SW 114th and West Wittstruck Road.

There have been numerous letters and comments that demonstrate the emotion, frustration, anger and fear that comes with this proposed change in land use. Most of which has been caused by the total lack of transparency by the applicant, Randy Essink and those supporting him, Nutrient Advisors of West Point, Nebraska. Transparency that could have helped to answer and ease these concerns. My experience in these matters strongly suggests that when there is a lack of transparency there is a defining reason for it. In other words it doesn't pass the smell test. In the case of this permit that is both figuratively and literally.

I will leave those who live in close proximity to this proposed project speak about the issues of smell, light pollution, noise, increased heavy truck traffic and road issues, threats to groundwater and wells, and so on. I will limit this correspondence to two issues.

First, Costco did not choose Nebraska for its production facility in Fremont, and support chicken factories through out the eastern part of the State, because of our great work ethic, climate or the potential for Coach Frost to lead us back to the college football promise land. My research indicated they picked us because of the total lack of governance, rules, laws or controls over this industry in the State of Nebraska and Lancaster County. When it comes to chicken production and support facilities this is the wild, wild west and there is no Sheriff in town. They can do what they want with no one to hold them, or their contractees accountable.

My second issue came to light when observing the County Planning Commission meetings and the applicant Randy Essink up close. Mr. Essink's ability to deal with an operation of this magnitude, with no previous experience, is clearly a major concern. On questioning from the Planning Commission he couldn't begin to answer a simple question about his business plan. He had to turn to his handlers for help. This is a multi-million dollar facility, and he has no clue. Mr. Essink sees Costco dollar signs in his eyes. And when those dollar signs are jeopardized, with problems, or unforeseen production issues, he will cut corners. Corners that have to guard rails because the State and County is behind the curve on protecting its citizens with clear and enforceable rules, policies or laws that will hold these facilities accountable. We are way beyond the "trust us"

here. The applicants lack of transparency from the start is a clear and giant red flag as to what we can expect should this project move forward and how they will handle problems.

If you, as the governing Board for the residents of Lancaster County, can't see fit to reject this project, at the bare minimum place this type of facility on a very short leash. Put some teeth into these current and future permits by enacting County Ordinances that protect your citizens from those who would put profit over everything else. I heard at least 1/3 of the Planning Commission indicate they are appointed, not elected officials, who should add protection, checks and policy to govern these operations. You are our elected officials. You have the ability and the charge in these matters to step up and hold Randy Essink, Nutrient Advisors and ultimately, Costco responsible for their actions, or lack there of. Now, or in the future. Your citizens deserve that from you.

Nancy and John J. Becker
6434 Rolling Hills Blvd.
Lincoln, Nebraska

Monet J. McCullen

From: County Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2018 7:59 AM
To: Monet J. McCullen
Subject: FW: Special Permit #18025

From: Rosina Paolini [mailto:rapaolini@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2018 6:01 AM
To: County Clerk <CoClerk@lancaster.ne.gov>
Subject: Special Permit #18025

Dear County Commissioners-

My sadness is that you are slated with deciding whether or not the use of the land is appropriate for a chicken feed lot, not how the use will impact the community. How can one make a determination without considering the impact on the air, water, land, wild life, and habitat? You are all placed in a daunting, limiting position.

Seems this whole chicken feed lot project needs to be put on hold until guideline and regulations are put in place to protect the water, land, air and people. Nebraska has no regulations, unknown territory. Probable why Costco and it's contractors chose this area to establish their feedlots.

The owner seemed to have no idea of what he was getting into and is trusting and relying on the contractor to guide him. That is scary.

Please look at videos demonstrating how these feedlots are organized. Is it a human way to treat the animals? Where does the waste go? What are they spraying to contain the ammonia?

This project will impact several communities like Denton, farms, and Spring Creek Prairie.

I ask a lot of questions there are few answers for at this time. A good reason to do some more research so an informed decision can be made.

Thank you for your service and your time-
*rosina
Rosina Paolini