



HERITAGE PRAIRIE
FARM

May 19 2014

Ms. Rita Tungare
Director of Community and Economic Development
City of St. Charles
Two East Main Street
St. Charles, IL 60174

Dear Ms. Tungare,

Thank you for reaching out to us concerning the proposed "Bluffs of St. Charles" development on Brundige Rd. We are writing on behalf of Heritage Prairie Farm, the business directly across the street from the proposed development.

If you are not familiar with our business, allow us to share with you what we do. We are first and foremost a working organic farm. We grow high quality organic vegetables that are enjoyed throughout the county and region. Our products are available at every Whole Foods Market throughout the state. But like many small family owned farms, we have diversified to make our business sustainable.

In addition to the 250 varieties of 40 different vegetables we grow, we also raise a limited number of heritage breed hogs, pasture raised chickens for eggs, maintain around 2 million bees for honey production, host various private and public events throughout the growing season and have an onsite retail store featuring the products from several other local growers and artisans. All of these agriculture or agriculture related activities combine together to create a sustainable business, both environmentally and financially. In the past few years, our reputation for quality has reached both local and national press. We have partnered with various municipal,

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county, and state groups, as well as various private educational institutions, to help promote sustainable farming and food production.

We have worked very hard to build and grow our business in close alignment with the overall land use plan for Kane County. In fact, we worked closely with Kane County administration to shape our business plan to be of value to all the residents of the county. As our business has grown, so too has our contribution to the county and its residents. We have hundreds of customers that depend on our products and services. Wholesome, locally prepared food is hard to find these days. Our customers rely on us to provide local healthy organic food for their families. We also host hundreds of guests throughout the season who rely on us for education and inspiration. We regularly provide educational tours to groups of all ages to learn how and why we produce food for our community. Even our public and private events are designed to connect people with the source of their food. Few things compare to enjoying a wholesome local meal while enjoying the natural beauty of the farm and its surrounding area. Our business is one of a kind. We feel it is truly an asset to the surrounding community.

While there are thousands of people who rely on the services that we offer, there are dozens more who rely on the jobs we have created. We now employ over 50 people at the height of our season. Even during our brief off season, we have a minimum of 15 full-time employees on our payroll - a feat that few, if any, small family farms can match. In spite of the recent economic crisis and due largely to the hard work of our staff and support of our long-term customers, our business has steadily grown since its startup in 2007. Most recently, in 2013, our total payroll was just under \$550,000, we contributed \$89,034 in payroll taxes and \$41,359 in sales taxes.

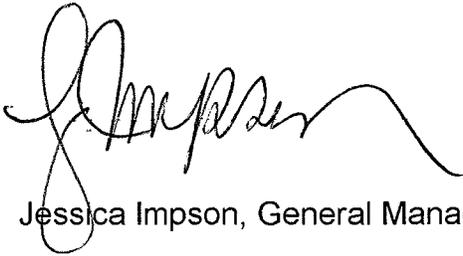
We mention all of this because, if the proposed development moves forward as contemplated, our entire enterprise will be jeopardized. Additionally, we feel that the proposed development is substantially in direct conflict with the Kane County Land Use Plan that we worked so hard to build our business around.

The residents of St Charles and Kane County deserve to be able to enjoy the employment, nutritious food, education, and rural charm that Heritage Prairie Farm

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provides. The "Bluffs of St. Charles" represents a "worst case scenario" that would result in irreparable damage to our business enterprise, significant loss of employment, and the elimination of the numerous benefits our efforts have created for the residents of Kane County. We feel that our neighbors and customers will benefit much more with alternative uses for the proposed development property.

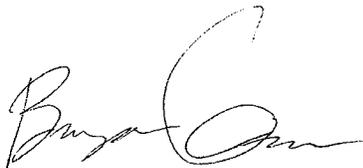
Sincerely,



Jessica Impson, General Manager



Nate Sumner, Operation Manager



Bronwyn Weaver, Owner



Robert Archibald, Owner