

4/27/2001

To the Knox County Planning Commission and the Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals,

I am a resident of Knox County and am writing regarding Case 4-H-21-UR (<https://knoxmpc.org/cases/4-H-21-UR>). I own the property adjacent and just east to the 27.98 acres being considered for rezoning and development of a detached residential subdivision. While I understand the need for housing in the area is at an all-time high, I would ask that the Knox County Planning Commission and the Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals consider any concerns expressed by the neighbors in the area around the property, including those shared in this letter.

The first concern is that my property has a creek bed that allows the drainage from Emory Road to flow into a pond and then onto this property. I would request this drainage avenue remain in some fashion. As an example, the drainage was overlooked when Volunteer Village was built on the South side of my property. My grandfather at the time shared and voiced his concerns but his concerns were never taken seriously as the red clay mud collapsed his fence line. As far as I can remember he was never compensated for his loss and ended up selling his cattle to help compensate for the loss.

The second concern and request are that an environmental study of the Cherokee Caverns be conducted to protect the caverns from any runoff caused by this development. As noted and reported on in the 2019 WBIR news article, the caverns suffered damage from flooding - <https://www.wbir.com/article/news/historic-cherokee-caverns-flooded-and-erased-years-of-work/51-d5530bf0-e1a9-4bdc-bcc5-9d849377f6e3>. The Caverns have been a source of enjoyment for many families over the years and it would be sad to see them damaged through uninformed or unprepared development and construction.

Lastly and my third concern is that as more and more of our farmland in the area is swallowed by the urban sprawl. I ask that the county not restrict owners and families trying to maintain and/or return agricultural use to our county. I hope soon to be able to apply for an agricultural rezoning and return the land to raising livestock as my grandfather did when I grew up in this area. I ask that you do not allow this detached residential subdivision rezoning to have a negative effect on any future requests for agricultural development.

Thank you for your time.

William D. Ray II

Donna Kay Ray

9808 West Emory Rd.