

To:
The Berrien County Commissioners
The Greater Berrien County Planning Committee
Brenda Ferrell

My name is Della Gladieux. I was born, raised and have lived in Berrien County for most of my life. My family, the Bradfords, Gaskins, and Strawders founded the Bradford and Strawder Road community in South Berrien County over 100 years ago.

I have attached facts and evidence on why you should vote against this development on Bradford Road and others like them around our rural agricultural areas. I will show you how it is not only economically problematic but it will cause future financial issues for the county, cities, and citizens of Berrien County.

To allow this development and others like this is irresponsible growth and is a mismanagement of taxpayer's money. Our tax dollars need to go to revitalization, rejuvenation, and investment back into the area and its citizens. Growth needs to happen in areas with existing resources. This would be a fiscally responsible way to manage tax funds and grants.

This developer and many development companies like this try to paint a pretty profitable picture to the decision makers and prospective home buyers. This is an illusion of promised tax revenue from new developments. This may be true in some instances where costs and zoning for developments are existing but not in situations like this one.

I have laid out the evidence from studies, facts, and statistics, along with the [2025 Comprehensive Plan Update for Berrien County & Cities of Alapaha, Enigma, Nashville, and Ray City](#) (Plan Update) to prove that allowing this development and others like them are not only a bad option but are financially irresponsible to the county and the citizens. As it also goes against the very plan that Berrien County themselves have created.

The Plan Update states throughout the objectives, goals, and plans to protect and promote the rural agriculture lands and its resources including waterways and our underground water recharge system. The Plan Update details needs, policies, and plans to protect the county from urban sprawl which starts with developments like this one; while promoting responsible and sustainable growth through repair, revitalization, and investing in existing areas closer to established resources.