

October 6, 2006

James R. Moyer,
Sandusky County Engineer
100 N. Park Avenue
Fremont, OH 43420

In re: Proposed Mega-Dairies for Sandusky County

Dear Mr. Moyer,

I am writing you on behalf of Sandusky County Citizens Protecting Our Resources, LLC. As I am sure you are aware, our group is very concerned about the impact to the citizens of Sandusky County on our health, environment and quality of life were the mega-dairies to receive operating permits in Sandusky County. While our group understands that there are many others who do not have these same concerns, we nonetheless feel it is extremely important to take all actions available to protect the citizens of Sandusky County in this regard. To that end, we would like to address the provisions of Section 901:10-1-02(A)(7) which reads as follows:

“An application for a permit to install a concentrated animal feeding facility shall contain documentation or correspondence that verifies that the owner or operator has consulted with local officials, including boards of county commissioners or boards of township trustees to address infrastructure needs and financing of that infrastructure.”

When this provision was communicated to the County Commissioners, we were told that because the County Engineer does not believe there will be damage to the county roads as a result of the CAFOs coming to the County, that they would not be requesting a consultation. We would like to understand how you come to such a conclusion. It is our understanding that there will be damage; it is only a question of how extensive the damage will be to County roads. While we understand that some roads may be better able to withstand the traffic because they had previously been constructed to sustain lime plant traffic and/or the trucking company traffic, there are still numerous county roads surrounding the proposed dairy locations that have not been constructed for extensive repeated heavy weight travel by milk trucks, manure spreading equipment, construction equipment, etc. If you would explain your position on this issue, it may help us better understand why we should not worry about this particular matter when it comes to the CAFOs.

Further, our research indicates that quite often local governments work with dairies to obtain external funding and/or grants to help pay for road damage or improvements. Has this been done for Sandusky County? If it has, could you provide us with information to help us understand the funding of repairs or improvements? If it has not, and let's just say for the sake argument that there is road damage and/or repairs to be made, how would these repairs be paid for? Wouldn't these funds come from Sandusky County taxpayers

via tax increases or re-allocation of tax revenues to the detriment of other County recipients, such as schools?

We look at 901:10-1-02(A)(7) as a way of protecting the citizens of Sandusky County and cannot understand why our county officials are unwilling to take this step. This section permits our local officials to address the effects of the CAFOs on the basic physical systems of our County's population, including roads, utilities, water, sewage, etc. These systems are considered essential for enabling productivity in the economy. Under this provision the dairies can adequately inform the County of their intended road usage and address other infrastructure issues rather than have us assume what may or may not happen. Again, for the sake of argument, let's say the County requests the consultation and you still believe that there won't be road damage or other effects to the infrastructure, what harm has been done in exercising one of the few rights given to the local community when it comes to CAFOs?

Sincerely,



Sharon Aldrich, Secretary
Sandusky County Citizens Protecting Our Resources, LLC
1562 Findlay Rd.
Woodville, OH 43469

cc: Brad Smith, President, Sandusky County Commissioners