

# SANDUSKY COUNTY ENGINEER

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October 20, 2006

Ms. Sharon Aldrich, Secretary  
Sandusky County Citizens Protecting Our Resources, LLC  
1562 Findlay Road  
Woodville, Ohio 43469

Dear Ms. Aldrich:

This is in reply to your letter dated October 6, 2006 regarding my position on the impact proposed dairies will have on county roads.

In general, roads that have adequate base, are smooth and in good repair are more capable of carrying traffic and will last longer and are not as susceptible to damage as roads that have weak base, are rough or are in poor repair. The County Roads in the vicinity of the proposed dairies generally fall into the initially described condition. The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) on these roads is such that it can be increased substantially without adverse consequences. I doubt that the proposed developments will generate sufficient amount of traffic to have a negative impact.

The sections of County Road 32 that have been designated as the main travel routes for the proposed facilities were paved in 1993 and again in 2004 with a total of 4 3/4" of asphalt. To put this in perspective, this is equivalent to more than ten (10) inches of stone base. This is in addition to the stone base and layers of asphalt that existed prior to 1993. These sections are structurally sound and capable of carrying legal loads.

All other county roads in the vicinity of the proposed developments have been paved since 1993 and are in good condition. The only exception would be County Road 13 which was paved in 1992 and is scheduled to be paved next year.

In the event legal loads are exceeded and damage does occur, Section 5577.12 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides that the person violating the law can be held liable for the damage. Furthermore, Section 5577.07 of the ORC provides that load limits can be reduced as much as 50% during times of thaws and moisture. I would not hesitate to initiate this action if it becomes necessary.

Since no road or bridge improvements are needed at this time and as County Engineer I don't anticipate damage, I don't see the need to obtain any additional funding or grants.

Most funding for county roads comes from state fuel taxes and registration fees. In general, these taxes are collected statewide (not just from Sandusky County taxpayers) and then distributed to various funds. A certain percentage goes to municipalities, counties and townships. Of the county funds, some are distributed to all 88 counties equally and others are distributed in proportion to mileage. In recent years there has been an increase in Federal and State grants. The above mentioned paving of County Road 32 was funded in part with Federal Funds and the proposed paving of County Road 13 is planned to receive a State grant. The only funding generated within Sandusky County that stays in Sandusky County is the \$5 permissive registration fee commonly called the "piggyback tax". This tax amounts to less than 4% of the total revenue for county roads. All of these funds must be used strictly for highway purposes and can not be transferred to any other agencies including schools.

As you mentioned, I can't see that there would be any harm in requesting a consultation as provided.

Please advise if you need further information.

With regards,

  
James R. Moyer

Copies:

County Commissioners, Scott Township Trustees  
Woodville Township Trustees, File