

WAYNE A. AND CONSTANCE S. WHITEHEAD
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February 6, 2008

Re: February 14, 2008 MPC Meeting
Use on Review Agenda Item 83, Cheryl F. Cruze, 2-I-08-UR

Dear Commissioner Benefield:

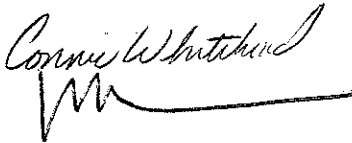
We are writing to you to voice our support of the proposed Cruze Family Farm Store in the Riverdale Community in East Knox County.

We live one mile from the Cruze Family Farm in the old Riverdale Elementary School which we purchased from Knox County in 1992 and have extensively restored and placed on the National Register of Historic Places. We are advocates for the preservation and enhancement of the agricultural, historical, cultural, and environmental resources of the French Broad River Corridor communities and have actively participated in the planning process for the future of this important area. We see this endeavor as fitting into that vision.

This is an agricultural community, and we believe that a farm store on one of the last working dairy farms in Knox County would be an asset to this community and all of Knox County. It is an appropriate location, an appropriate land use for an agricultural zone, and what could be more appropriate than being able to buy local food overlooking the farm where the food came from?

The Cruze family has demonstrated that they are good stewards of the land. They have put 400 acres of their land under conservation easement, and they have a forward-thinking vision for the future of this area. We are appreciative of their efforts to demonstrate that a family farm can prosper in Knox County, and we look forward to enjoying the fruits of their labors so close to home.

Sincerely,



Connie and Wayne Whitehead