

To Whom It May Concern:

Gibbs/Corryton is close knit rural community. The people out here look out for each other and take care of each other. Many of us are fearing what happens to our area with the new Thompson School rezoning. I have several concerns as a resident myself. My biggest concern is the traffic. Tazwell already cannot handle the amount of people commuting on that road. Washington and Emory are also major roads in which people use to commute. These roads are NOT designed to handle additional traffic and struggle to handle what is going at this time. How many accidents happen on these roads daily? How many deaths happen? Before rezoning and building out of control the infrastructure needs to be thought of. Adding an additional 300 homes means that at least 300 vehicles are coming onto the road. To be able to afford homes now, both people in the household must work. So that 300 houses could mean an additional 600 vehicles on the road. Tazwell, Washington and Emory can't handle the amount of traffic they currently have. It takes me almost 20 minutes at 5:30pm to get from 640 back to my house in Corryton because traffic is dead stopped on Washington.... every single day. Widening the roads could work, but then work is paying for this? Americans are already struggling with high gas prices, food prices and trying to survive everything being thrown at them. We cannot afford additional taxes to pay for the road when the current roads are a disaster. Highway 640 between Broadway and Washington has so many potholes, and bumps, it feels like my car is going to fall apart every time I drive to and from work. If eminent domain is used for road widening, will people be compensated for the land the government legally stole? 300 homes mean more children entering an already stretched thin school system. Gibbs elementary, middle, and high school would all have to handle the weight of that. Knox County Schools already is struggling to keep staff. They don't have enough for when a teacher calls in sick that classes are getting combined or split up between the remaining teachers. That also means additional bus routes for our bus drivers, which meanings hiring more staff. Gibbs high school is one of the lowest ranking schools in Knox County. Why are we not addressing resources to fix the issues over there before adding more homes? Farmlands are needed to feed people, if you continue to approve additional homes being built people will have places to live but no places to grow food. I understand that a developer has purchased this land and wants to build homes there, but I would be willing to consider a compromise to appease everyone. Don't build 300 homes on that plot but build 100 homes. Grow the community slowly. Give people the ability to own a larger lot that allows Gibbs/Corryton to stay rural. Allow the homes to have unrestricted land that allows people to own farm animals, grow their own food. 100 homes still are a lot but it's less of an impact than 300 homes. Thank you for your time on reading my input.

Sincerely,

Heather Schumacher