

Do not approve the re-zoning request in South Knox County, use on review 1-A-23-U. I strongly oppose this proposed land use. My home, my dental practice, and my parent's home are all downrange from the proposed firing range and within a two-mile radius. In addition, the proposed range is a half mile from New Hopewell Elementary, Beulah Church and Northstar Church. Like the Medispa owner who commented, I do my best to create a calm relaxing environment for my patients who may be anxious. The noise from this proposed firing range would negatively impact my business and the businesses around me. It would also undoubtedly create a stressful environment for the students of New Hopewell Elementary and the homeowners nearby. Knowing this activity is occurring also negatively impacts our perceived sense of safety in our community.

It is my understanding that the range will be a private range used for testing of ammunition and firearms produced by Lucky Gunner. This intended use will likely involve determining statistical rates of failure for multiple different calibers of ammunition, as well as accuracy, a process that should require many thousands of rounds of ammunition fired. Similarly, if they are manufacturing firearms, they should be testing them to failure, and testing them to determine rate of fire and accuracy, among other parameters. This is not the backyard plinking that we all occasionally enjoy in the county. This volume of fire increases the risk that a stray round could cause harm to someone downrange in addition to creating an unacceptable amount of noise.

Counter to the applicant's assertion, this is no longer a rural area. Permitting this commercial firing range within a few thousand feet of churches and schools is irresponsible and should not be approved.