

As a resident of Heiskell Rd. in Powell for the past 28 years, I oppose the rezoning of this property for a shopping center or any commercial use or multifamily development. Heiskell Road consists of single family homes and subdivisions. This property should retain its agriculture, rural residential and single family zoning to maintain the quality of life of residents that moved here seeking a quiet, rural lifestyle in addition to preserving the wildlife. Too much of our farm land, forests and open spaces have been destroyed with excessive development. There does not seem to be any "plan" to conserve or expand green spaces or to provide housing options for families who want a large yard in which their children can play. With the rapid development in the past 5 years, Powell is saturated with shopping centers and fast food restaurants. There is no need for another shopping center built by an outside developer who has no familiarity with the Powell community or its residents' needs. Commercial development should be confined to those areas already zoned commercial such as Clinton Highway and Merchants Drive. The rezoning of this property is not compatible with the surrounding development as there is no commercial development on this side of Emory Rd at Heiskell Rd. This undeveloped land extends down Emory Rd to Powell Church and then single family residences beyond that. A shopping center at this location would exacerbate existing traffic backups on Emory Rd and Heiskell Rd. The Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission should put the interests of the residents of this community first and vote against the rezoning request.