

July 8, 2022

Dane County ZLR Committee Members:

I'm sure you have more correspondence than you can handle. Nonetheless, as a tax paying citizen of Dane County I must express my view of an issue that affects me personally.

I am a resident of Rutland Township living on Center Road. I have lived here for twenty-two years. As with most citizens in the county and the nation my home is my biggest investment. I have worked hard to develop the house and property, turning what was once run down into a beautiful place that is peaceful and quiet. I recently retired and am now on a fixed income and I had hoped to live out my life here. Unfortunately, we are now faced with the possibility of a new industrial quarry about a mile south of us. Although there is a small (grandfathered) quarry in that location that reopened in 2017, we have been living with it.

The current owner of that site has been operating it since 2017. He now wants to open a new much larger industrial scale quarry on an adjoining property. Many residents of Rutland have been opposed to the opening of this new site for many reasons. Unfortunately, it seems as though many of our local and county representatives are ignoring the facts that this new quarry does not meet many of the Rutland township long term goals as well as the Dane County guidelines for a CUP. It is worth noting that none of the Rutland supervisors who support this nuisance business live near it or are affected in any way. I would like to address a few issues that are beyond any published regulations.

The owner of the quarry is being portrayed as a small-time family business and friendly neighbor. Considering the scale of his operation and equipment on site that must be worth close to a million dollars, it is difficult to imagine that he is a struggling small business. He is also part of a much bigger lobbying group, the Aggregate Producers of Wisconsin which has extensive resources and an aggressive legal team that seems to intimidate local communities. I also have observed that he is personally associated with at least a few of the authorities that oversee quarry operations which makes me believe that there is a clear bias. Last year I emailed a question to Roger Lane asking about a specific quarry regulation. My email was

immediately forwarded to the owner. A few hours later while walking my dog with my wife Mr. Hahn aggressively confronted me on the road and said he saw the email and “he knew where I lived” which I perceived as intimidation and surely not neighborly.

It seems obvious that the quarry owner made a poor business decision in purchasing this property without some contingency about being granted a permit, but it's not anyone else's responsibility to correct that. Rutland, as with much of Dane County, is quickly becoming more residential, mixing with the farming community. Quarry operations are not compatible with residential areas.

We have always paid our taxes and although our neighbors farm several acres of our property we are not permitted to be considered agricultural zoning. As a result, we are paying residential taxes on seven plus acres. This also means we are paying many times more in taxes than the quarry. At the same time the quarry not only creates noise and dust but a great deal of heavy truck traffic. These trucks are noisy and exceptionally heavy. Center Road, as with many rural roads, is not built (structurally) for this type of heavy vehicle traffic. This results in exceptional wear and tear of the roads that ultimately, we pay for through our taxes. We are thus subsidizing his business. Many of our roads also have little or no shoulder which makes walking or riding a bicycle dangerous, especially when these large quad axel gravel trucks are running. Several years ago I had to identify the body of a neighbor who was struck and killed on Center Road outside my driveway. I will never forget this. The blind spots and curves on the roads in this neighborhood are dangerous enough without the constant pressure of gravel trucks.

Please recognize that the application does not meet the standards and is not right for this location.

Thank you.

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