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To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that there is a plan to build a truck stop near my home at the Highland Oaks Subdivision. I am emailing you regarding my concerns and opposition to the proposed truck stop. As a healthcare provider who also works in the area, the location of the truck stop poses many dangers to the community. First and foremost, not only will outside visitors be stopping at the truck stop, but also young adult drivers as the high school is located near the entry of the proposed truck stop. In 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that the risk of motor vehicle crashes is higher among teens between the ages of 16 to 19 years old (CDC, 2024). Between visitors who do not know the area and teens, this truck stop has the potential to cause many traffic and pedestrian accidents. Highway 281 is a busy highway in which the speed is suddenly reduced from 70mph to 50mph. The truck stop also poses a very dangerous walk to many high school students walking from the high school to the truck stop. In order to avoid injuries and fatalities, I implore you to stop the proposed development of a truck stop in the area.

In addition, the truck stop has many detrimental health effects on the community. The community living around the truck stop is at increased risk for respiratory diseases such as asthma due to the high ozone levels and gasoline vapors. Likewise, these air pollutants can further worsen respiratory diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Even more frightening is the risk of leukemia associated with the levels of benzene. Consistent exposure to benzene results in damage to the bone marrow, which decreases the number of circulating blood cells (Synder, 2007). The National Institute of Health (NIH) has also created a study in which residential proximity to petrol stations contribute to the increased risk of childhood leukemia. The NIH reported that the closer the proximity of a petrol station increased the risk of childhood leukemia (Epideiol, 2023). As a newlywed with the hopes of starting a family in the next year, the last thing I would want is to expose my newborn to the hazardous chemicals emitted from the truck stop meters away from my home.

I understand the need to expand businesses in the community. However, I am in opposition of a business that will create more harm than good. The location of the proposed truck stop will pose many dangers to the community, especially to homes in the area and high school. Therefore, I stress the importance of putting a stop to the proposed truck stop on Highway 281.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Best regards,

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