

**From:** Lexi Smith <lexismith95@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 12:34 PM  
**To:** Brandon Rakestraw  
**Subject:** Stop Annexation of Cole Lake Road

[EXTERNAL Email: Think before you Click]

Dear Brandon,

My name is Lexi Wolfe, and I've lived in Paulding County my entire 29 years. I grew up off Hiram-Suite and recently bought property on Cole Lake Road. I'm writing to express my deep concern about the proposed construction of 670 new homes in our area. This level of development is not only unsustainable—it threatens the very character of the county that so many of us have cherished for generations.

I understand the financial incentives that come with new housing developments and the potential for increased tax revenue. But there must be a balance. Sacrificing the peaceful, rural quality of life that defines Paulding County is not acceptable. Growth without thoughtful, community-minded planning is not progress—it's destruction.

Consider the current conditions at the intersection of Hiram Sudie Road near Cole Lake or the traffic light at Buchanan Highway and Cole. These areas already experience significant congestion. A development of this size, bringing in 600+ new vehicles, will overwhelm the existing infrastructure—especially with traffic already heavy on the way to Dallas via 278.

Traffic is just the beginning. Our schools are already stretched thin. Adding hundreds of new families will push them to the brink. Just recently, there was a 20-student brawl at East Paulding High School. I graduated in 2022, and nothing like that ever occurred during my time there. It's clear that the community—and the schools—are changing, and not in a positive direction.

In just five years, I've watched Paulding County change dramatically. Long-time residents are being pushed out, and the way of life we've known for generations is slipping away.

I know many of you have deep roots here as well. I urge you to consider the voices of long-term residents—the families who've built their lives here and want to preserve the integrity of our community. This county is more than tax dollars and zoning maps. It's our home.

Please vote against this development. We deserve a say in how our community grows—and how much growth is too much.

I've started a petition and will continue to gather support:

<https://chnng.it/qtq6pTMmkv>

Sincerely,

Lexi Wolfe

Sent from my iPhone