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February 24, 2012

RE: Proposed slaughter facility

Dear Citizens of Mountain Grove, Cabool and surrounding areas,

I represent the Community Preservation Project with regards to the destructive impact that will occur as a result of a proposed slaughter plant to be located at the Ayers Industrial Park. As a local citizen, you should be apprised of the significant negative economic impact a facility of this sort could have on the immediate area and surrounding communities. Your property values will plummet and your town virtually destroyed.

This will affect not only your quality of life, but that of your community as a whole. Please find enclosed an informational packet that my office has prepared to inform the community of the damaging and destructive consequences we can all expect from a facility of this scope and size. Not only should we be concerned as to the economic impact, but the environmental impact as well. This is just a small portion of the facts we have compiled. I will be making a presentation to Mountain Grove City Council on March 6, 2012 at 7:00 PM and Cabool City Council on March 19, 2012 at 5:30 PM. as to these issues.

Very truly yours,

Cynthia O. MacPherson

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Enclosure

INFORMATION FOR THE CITIZENS OF MOUNTAIN GROVE AND CABOOL, MISSOURI

Presented By

THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROJECT

“Informing Our Community of the Hidden Truths”

INTRODUCTION

There are serious efforts underway to build a proposed horse slaughter facility within the Twin Cities Industrial Park. The following information is provided to educate the community about the proposed operation and how it could impact the local environment, economy, job market and community in general.

THE FACILITY

- The Lamson & Sessions building, which is situated next to S & H Farm Supply and owned by L & R Industries of Cabool, is the proposed site of the processing plant. Additionally, investors are seeking to buy 30-40 acres from the Industrial Park to be used for lagoons and holding pens.
- Current plans for the plant’s waste include a “three-tier” lagoon system utilizing salt and chemicals to treat eviscerated remains and blood, with the final lagoon using clams as a filter system. **There is no current waste and sewage infrastructure in place that could accommodate a 2800 horse-per-week load.**
- The proposed facility will breed horses on site as well as import horses from across the nation to be processed into meat for overseas human consumption. Horses will be trailered in 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Investors project the regular slaughter of 200-400 horses per day, seven days a week.
- Because the meat is intended for human consumption, it is estimated that a minimum of 90% of the horses will be in excellent health at the time of slaughter. Many will be bred specifically for slaughter and genetic engineering and cloning will likely be utilized.

THE PLAYERS

- The Plant will be owned by Chevideco – A Belgium based European company which specializes in the processing of horse meat and purchase and sale of live and slaughtered horses.
- Chevideco will have a minimum of 50% investment in the proposed facility, thereby ensuring it a controlling interest.
- Chevideco is the parent company to Dallas Crown, the controversial horse slaughter plant in Kaufman, Texas, which was permanently closed in 2007.
 - City officials from Kaufman, TX have been very outspoken regarding the damages caused by Dallas Crown to their city's economic growth, sewer system and health of its citizens¹.
 - Coincidentally, horse slaughter is now illegal in Texas and Illinois, the locations of the last three horse slaughter plants in operation in the United States before they were closed in 2007.

Unified Equine, LLC

- Through partnership with Chevideco, Unified Equine, LLC coordinates and manages the operation of slaughterhouses in the United States.
- Sue Wallis, the chief executive officer for Unified Equine, LLC, is a resident of Recluse, Wyoming, where she is a member of the state legislature.

¹ Articles about Mayor Bacon, Kaufman, TX and an open letter from Mayor Bacon to Congress can be read at: <http://www.animallawcoalition.com/horse-slaughter/article/686>

<http://vickeryeckhoff.com/2012/01/10/paula-bacon-mayor-of-kaufman-texas-kicks-some-ass/>

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/vickeryeckhoff/2012/01/10/texas-mayor-paula-bacon-kicks-some-tail/>

[http://www.kaufmanzoning.net/paulabaconresponsetonewyorktimearticle10232011.h](http://www.kaufmanzoning.net/paulabaconresponsetonewyorktimearticle10232011.htm)
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- The website for Unified Equine can be found at www.unifiedequine.com/blog/. The site, however, is carelessly designed and contains little to no useful information regarding the company and its practices. Is this who we want doing business in our state?
- An article regarding Unified Equine's questionable business tactics and a complaint from 2010 can be read at: www.animallawcoalition.com/horse-slaughter/article/1486.

Dan Erdel

- Chevideco and Unified Equine, LLC, have solicited Attorney Dan Erdel from Mexico, Missouri, as legal counsel and a potential business investor. No other names have been publicly released.

IMPLEMENTATION

- By the use of Economic Development programs, the Belgium based company, Chevideco, seeks to take advantage of a \$750,000 loan serviced through Intercounty Electric from USDA and reap the following rewards²:
 - Tax credits for "new Investment"
 - 50% Income Exemption (this means virtually tax free income for half of their earnings that will go overseas with the meat).
 - Tax reduction on improvements.
 - \$1,600 in employee credits for each qualifying employee for ten (10) years.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- One of the main concerns posed by this project is the unlimited possibility for groundwater contamination due to the proposed lagoon systems.
- Tom Aley has independently owned and operated the consulting firm Ozark Underground Laboratory since 1973. His credentials and educational background along with his business information can be found at www.ozarkundergroundlab.com.
- Aley's expert opinion is:

² See data at:
<http://www.ieca.coop/ECONOMICDEVELOPMENT/tabid/89/Default.aspx>

“Lagoons do not work well in Missouri karstlands. They are very prone to leakage. Past examples include multiple lagoon failures at the city lagoons serving Republic and West Plains. The last sinkhole collapse failure of the West Plains lagoon resulted in about 750 cases of waterborne illness. I did a case history study of a previous failure of that lagoon system in a 1972 publication by Mo. Div. of Geology and Land Survey on catastrophic sinkhole collapses induced by leaky impoundments in karst areas.”

- Work by the Ozark Underground Laboratory is focused primarily on land and water use issues in karst and fractured rock landscapes. Emphasis is placed on interactions between surface activities and resulting subsurface impacts.
- The laboratory has conducted this type of work in 35 U.S. states as well as in Australia, Barbados, Canada, Indonesia, New Zealand and Peru and has conducted numerous investigations and projects for various federal agencies including the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and the Corps of Engineers.
- the Laboratory has also conducted work for numerous state, municipal, corporate, and private clients.
- ***REMEMBER: WE ALL DRINK FROM WELLS.***

SOCIAL IMPACT

- Another main concern that must be taken into consideration: The increase in crime.
- Using Kaufman, Texas, as a model, it has been clearly documented that the increased traffic flow, felons and migrant workers that follow this type of industry have a direct correlation on crime statistics.
- Statistics showing crime rates in Kaufman, Texas, before and after the closing of the horse slaughter plants in 2007 can be found at www.city-data.com/crime/crime-Kaufman-Texas.html.

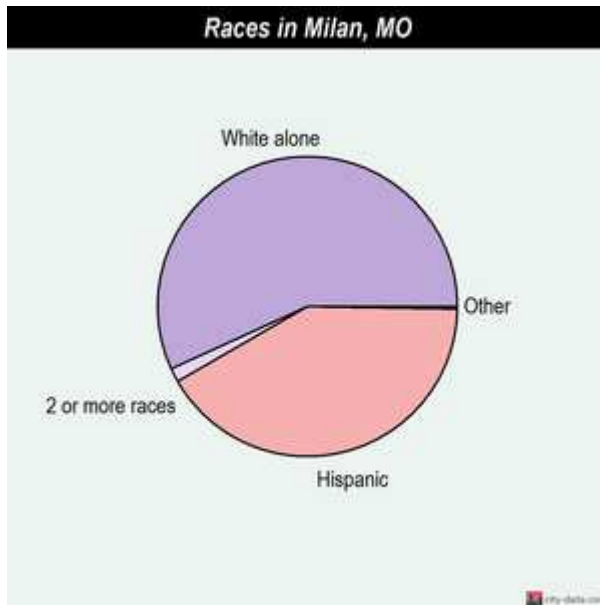
CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

- Poorly operated corporate slaughtering facilities have posed similar concerns and prompted numerous lawsuits in other rural Missouri towns.
- Members of the Milan, Missouri community felt so strongly about the lack of social responsibility and professionalism of the local pork processing plant that a 12-member jury awarded more than \$11 Million in damages to plaintiffs due to the “nuisances” caused by Premium Standard Farms, LLC. *Owens, et al v. Contigroup Companies, Inc., Et al., WD72560.*

MIGRANT WORK FORCE

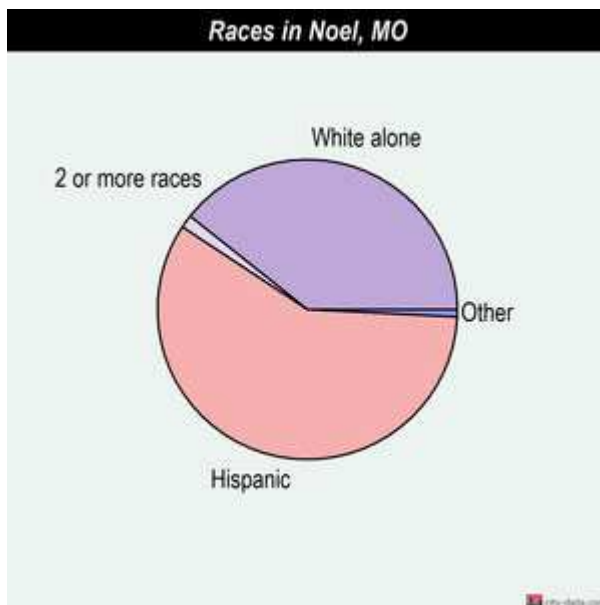
- Importing a workforce will add another tier to the social structure of both communities and schools. We need jobs, not the social burden of importing a work force from outside the area that needs jobs.
- Terry Spence, a citizen of Putnam County, Missouri and member of CLEAN (Citizens Legal Environmental Action Network), has been in litigation against Premium Standard Farms of Milan, Missouri for the past 17 years (including six federal lawsuits) due to issues with water contamination and excessively foul smells from the facility.
 - Mr. Spence, a farmer himself, has spoken candidly about the impact this type of operation can have on local farms, schools and hospitals. He has witnessed the local school systems struggle to overcome the language barrier between students and instructors where nearly 50% of the surrounding school populations are now Hispanic speaking due to the immigration of Hispanic plant workers. Mr. Spence also explained that local hospitals were labored with outstanding debt due to caring for ill and/or injured plant employees who were not covered with health insurance and were unable to pay their bills. The natural consequence of this outstanding debt was increased healthcare costs for the community.

- Mr. Spence welcomes questions or concerns regarding the issue or his personal experience in Milan. He can be reached at: Terry Spence, Putnam County, Missouri – (660) 947-2671.
- The road ahead for Mountain Grove has been paved with past experiences of other small towns in Southern Missouri. Look at what has happened in towns such as Milan and Noel, Missouri.



- White alone - 1,156 (56.8%)
- **Hispanic - 843 (41.4%)**
- Two or more races - 30 (1.5%)
- American alone - 5 (0.2%)

Read more: <http://www.city-data.com/city/Milan-Missouri.html#ixzz1n8kXdOT8>



- **Hispanic - 1,229 (58.5%)**
- White alone - 826 (39.3%)
- Two or more races - 30 (1.4%)
- American alone - 17 (0.8%)

Read more: <http://www.city-data.com/city/Noel-Missouri.html#ixzz1n8l3XOBT>

NEGATIVE ATTENTION

- If the slaughterhouse is opened as planned, it will be the first of its kind in the nation since the plant in Illinois was shut down in 2007.
- As a result, the communities of Mountain Grove and Cabool can expect a lot of attention ~ THE WRONG KIND.
- We will also undoubtedly see the loss of other businesses coming to this area. This hot button issue has the potential of driving other businesses and industries away from our communities.