

To: Members of Calcasieu Parish Police Jury

From: Loree Hebert, Jr., DVM

Re: Opposition to proposed changes to Holbrook Acres Part II

Date: 07/20/2020; for consideration at Public Hearing to be held on 07/21/2020

Dear Members of Calcasieu Parish Police Jury and other attendees:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition to the proposed changes to Holbrook Acres Part II, that if allowed would permit the downsizing of lots in this development.

As an adjoining landowner, I oppose these changes which will adversely impact both the market value and the enjoyment of my property as well as that of other property owners in the area.

My dad had only a 6th grade education. A heavy equipment operator for many years at PPG, he would come home every day after work, drink a cup of coffee with my mom, then work on our place until dark. He scrimped and saved in order to have property. His story is not unique. All our neighbors worked very hard to acquire and improve their properties and do not want to see their property values decreased by modifying the existing rule that requires one acre lots. I certainly also understand the concerns of property owners in Holbrook Acres Part I, whose property values will also decrease or not increase if this change is approved.

There are also environmental issues at stake. During the development of Holbrook Acres Part I, a drainage ditch was added along the west side of the property without appropriate erosion control. As a result, the natural drainage that had long fed a beautiful cypress swamp south of the development, was silted over, creating an ecological wasteland of wetlands that had for so long provided a natural habitat for various species of wildlife and plants, indigenous to this area. While the Corp of Engineers retroactively required the developer to add erosion prevention measures, much damage was already done and measures taken by the developer seemed minimal and half heartedly implemented. I have concerns that the proposed changes will result in an even greater negative impact to the surrounding environment.

The value of properties in this area are inherently tied to the rural character of the community. I believe that development of 1 acre lots in Holbrook Acres Part II is more consistent with this rural character and will help to secure the value and enjoyment of properties for both present and future residents.

Respectfully,

Loree Hebert, Jr., DVM