

October 12, 2020

## MEMO:

**TO:** Stephanie Soucey  
2710 East Silver Springs Blvd.  
Ocala, FL 34470

**FROM:** Robert D. Wester  
9692 SW 95 Loop  
Ocala, FL 34481

847-323-5449

**REFERENCE:** Zoning Change 201107SU

Dear Stephanie:

I would like to oppose the zoning change 201107SU unless the appropriate actions are taken to:

- # 1. Treat the wastewater to acceptable standards prior to allowing to seep into the ground water. This does not include using a lagoon or tank system that would seepage into the ground water.
- # 2. Disposal of the poultry waste including but not limited to (a) dead birds, (b) dropping or manure, (c) dressing waster and (d) hatchery waste. I am aware that the application is for a processing plant only and therefor hatchery waste would not be an issue.

It is common for the disposal of dead birds to be neglected due to the lack of time, fuel and labor. In many cases, dead birds are just thrown away in open pits or fallow land creating additional issues. Ideally, the dead birds should be fully burnt in incinerator to form ash which then is spread on the fallow land.

The droppings of the birds create other issues including storage and disposal. Over time, i.e. 3, 6 or 12 months the droppings can be converted into an excellent manure which then can be applied to the soil. Consideration needs to be given to the location of the manure pit to avoid objections of neighbors or possible contamination of the birds.

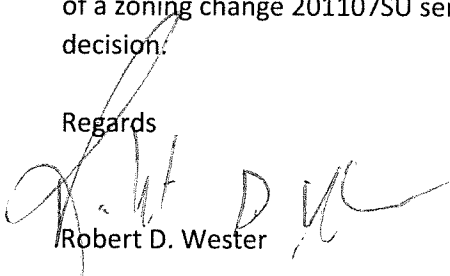
The common disposal of poultry manure includes (a) oxidation ditches, (b) lagoons and (c) solid disposal. Option (a) allows for the formation of sludge and liquid mature the downside is the formation of ammonia that escapes into the atmosphere. Option (b) where shallow covered ponds allow for anaerobic fermentation that decomposes the manure and after 2 to 4 months enriched manure can be

obtained. It is critical that the shallow covered ponds be sealed to prevent seepage into the ground water and contamination thereto.

In addition to the above, disposal of dressing waste needs to be addressed. Dressing waste includes the non-edible parts such as head feathers, feet and non-edible organs. The dressing waste can be dumped into a deep manure pit to fulfil composting through hot fermentation. The manure pit must be property covered to avoid spread of possible infection by air borne means and animals rooting out the manure for consumption.

# 3. In Marion County, our fresh water is obtained from wells into the multi-layer aquifer. Our water supply is **limited** and needs to be treated as a **valuable limited resource**. As you consider the approval of a zoning change 201107SU serious consideration must be given to the environmental aspects of the decision.

Regards



Robert D. Wester