



February 17, 2016

City Administrator
418 Osborne, St
St. Mary's, GA 31558

Dear Mr. Holman:

The mission of the Chamber is to create a strong, local economy, promote community, represent the interest of business with local government and engage in political action. That mission compels the Camden County Chamber Board to advise St. Mary's leaders regarding the "mill site". This 722 acre tract, formerly the site of Gilman/Durango Paper Mill has limited potential for residential or "mixed use" development. As we approach a nearly 15 year loss of revenue, either to the tax digest or support to local family incomes, we feel it is important to make the best use of the property as it transitions to its next stage of development.

Regardless of the party or entity submitting a rezoning application with the City of St. Mary's for the development of this prized real estate, we feel its best use is for "Planned Development Industrial". Our coastal heritage, culture and environment are important to all residents whether their focus is family health, business vitality, environmental beauty or industrial commerce. This property needs development that will be beneficial in all elements of "quality of life" to include consideration of the coastal environment, revenue and income that benefits "head of household" opportunities for employment and support to the local and regional digest, and safe for all stakeholders.

The Chamber Board recognizes that the mere size and environmental impact will need further collaboration with our surrounding communities and will engage the Regional Development Commission of Georgia to review serious action and impact to the local and surrounding area. We hope that this rezoning can be facilitated and approved so that equitable opportunities can be considered for economic growth and eco-friendly prosperity. As this plan evolve, the chamber is available to partner and collaborate in productive efforts to maximize the potential for our community in development of this great resource.

Sincerely,

Rachel M. Baldwin, EdS.

Chair, Camden County Chamber of Commerce
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Cc: AHendricks (Camden Chamber), Camden Chamber Board, James Coughlin (JDA), Mayor John Morrissey