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To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is inspired by the recent proposal to rezone the old mill site from mixed use to industrial use. Mixed use means that there would be a mixture of commercial and residential possibilities. Industrial use implies heavy trucks, freight trains, excessive noise and increased pollution. Whichever zoning is chosen will greatly affect the adjacent waterways and wildlife.

St. Mary's has been moving in the right direction. For example, purchasing the land on the waterfront to build a park and buying the old Gilman House for future development were positive, progressive decisions. I feel that we had a vision to emulate other wonderful cities like Helen, Ga., Greenville, S.C., Augusta, Ga, Savannah, Ga. and Beaufort, S.C. All of these cities enriched and preserved their character by replacing industry with parks, shops, restaurants, hotels and pedestrian friendly, tree-lined streets. As a result, these cities are enjoying a thriving economy with revenue brought in by tourism and jobs, thus increasing land values and enhanced quality of life for all.

We are now being led to believe that rezoning the old mill site back to industrial use is our only viable option. This is a 20th century solution to a 21st century problem. I believe that with the right incentives, we can attract the right buyers. We must be patient and make the right decision now rather than trying to clean up our mistakes in the future.

Our community is at a very precarious fork in the road. The path we choose will affect generations to come. This is why I urge fellow citizen's to look toward the future as they make this decision.

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Our community is at a very precarious fork in the road. The path we choose today will affect generations to come. This is why I urge fellow citizens to look toward the future as they make this very important decision.

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