

The Development Authority of St. Marys
418 Osborne St.
St. Marys, GA 31558

March 7, 2016

St. Marys Planning Commission
418 Osborne Street
St. Marys, GA 31558

To St. Marys Planning Commission,

The Board of the Development Authority of St. Marys (DASM) supports the application to rezone the Gilman mill property from Planned Development Mixed Use to Planned Development Industrial zoning.

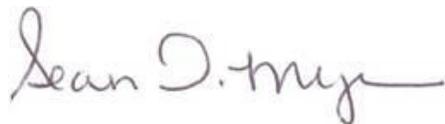
For general awareness and knowledge, the DASM Board members carefully reviewed the information provided during the rezoning process and took a comprehensive tour of the site to assess the current state of the property. In conclusion, the Board believes that the most appropriate use of the former mill property is an industrial use. The level of contamination and amount of required clean-up is too great to make it economically feasible for residential use in today's economy.

The Board is optimistic that with rezoning the property to allow for industrial use, that redevelopment of the property will occur and provide needed jobs for the community. This redevelopment could help revitalize the downtown and reverse the trend of declining property values, all while finishing the environmental remediation that the property needs. Furthermore, the redevelopment will increase the current tax base of City of St. Marys.

The Board believes that the property should be zoned industrial and strongly supports "responsible" development. Finally, the Board is of the opinion that the property should be developed cautiously and consciously by adopting the recommendations contained in the Staff Report dated February 11, 2016 with specific attention given to protection of conservation areas and rivers and adequate buffers to marsh, residential and historic areas.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely yours,



Sean Myers
Chairman of the Board

CC: Mayor John Morrissey
John Holman, City Manager