

182 Mount View Church Road
Moncure, NC 27559
January 11, 2023

Dear Board Members,

I am writing as an affected landowner to ask that you consider rejecting the Toothbrush application that proposes changing the zoning from R1 Residential to L1 Light Industrial. This is important to me for two reasons.

First, the land is important to me for sentimental reasons. It has been in the family for generations. My great grandparents were Henry Robert Harward and Bettie Lloyd Harward. They owned a huge tract of land which had been handed down through the Lloyd family. My grandfather, Carl Preston Harward, was the third of eight children that they had. Although my great grandmother Bettie Lloyd Harward was still living when I was a boy, it was spending time on the land belonging to my grandparents, Carl Preston Harward and Ida Brown Harward that caused me to want to come back here to live. As a boy, my twin sister and I would spend two weeks every summer with Grandma and Granddaddy. At the beginning, they had neither electricity nor indoor plumbing, but we didn't mind. We loved being with our grandparents who loved us. After they died, my parents, Ben and Eleanor Harward inherited half of the land. Before she died, my mother deeded that tract to my wife and me. When she died and I no longer was responsible for her care, I wanted to move to the land where my grandparents had lived. At that time, I created a screen saver at work that included a picture of my wife, our three children, and a nephew standing in Cedar Creek, a named creek on our property. I entitled the picture, "You can go home again." Although I had been commuting less than 10 miles to work, I gladly gave that up to drive almost an hour each way to and from work in order to live where I had such fond memories as a boy.

Secondly, I love the rural nature of the land. We have created a walking trail around our farm pond with two bridges and a bench on the dam overlooking the pond so that our grandchildren can enjoy the rural atmosphere of the land as I did as a boy. Although my wife did not know my grandparents and never came to the land until it was deeded to us, she loves the rural aspect as much as I do. In fact, when she home schooled our daughter for a year and a half before moving out here, she named our home school Cedar Creek Academy. My wife worked part time in an office that would have been within walking distance from our home in Garner, but she loved driving past Steve Thomas' farm and seeing the cattle, corn, and hay on the way to and from work. We think of Psalm 50:10 about God owning the cattle on a thousand hills and we say to each other that we are glad that God has lent a number of them for Steve Thomas to keep. We also love walking through the woods with our grandchildren and our dog to visit our neighbors Adam and Alison Feher at Cedar Hill Farms where they board horses and have riding academies. We met all of our neighbors on Center Grove Church Road by walking our dog in the rural setting that would be lost if industrial development is allowed.

Sincerely,
Ben R. Harward, Jr.