



Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

Fwd: Opposition to locating Costco in the Pinebush

1 message

Michele Desrosiers <micheledesro@gmail.com>
To: kovalchikk@togny.org

Thu, Apr 9, 2020 at 11:48 AM

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From: **Michele Desrosiers** <micheledesro@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Apr 9, 2020 at 11:45 AM
Subject: Opposition to locating Costco in the Pinebush
To: <kovalchikk@togny.gov>

To Mr. Kovalchik and the Town Board of Guilderland,

I am writing to express my opposition to locating a Costco in the environmentally sensitive Pinebush in Guilderland, NY.

Don't get me wrong, I LOVE Costco. I lived in San Diego for 10 years, where Sol Price started the Price Club that was eventually sold to Costco. Price Club was revered in San Diego and also offered good jobs. When we moved to Oregon, and subsequently Boston, we were big Costco customers - especially for diapers. I have longed for a Costco to locate in the Capital Region for over 20 years. So it's not that I don't want one.

It's just I don't want to locate a Costco in an environmentally sensitive area - when there are plenty of alternatives in the Capital Region. If there is an alternative location in Guilderland, then great. With this cataclysmic shift in the economy - perhaps there will be space opening up (unfortunately) within the existing structure of Crossgates Mall. **But please spare the Pine Bush.**

Costco has such a strong brand that people will travel to shop there. Costco could locate in a depressed area of the Capital Region and create good jobs for people who need them - while preserving the delicate environment of the Pine Bush. Costco should do what they did in Southeast San Diego when they located in a neighborhood north of Barrio Logan and brought economic opportunity to that area.

So I say to Costco leaders: if you can locate in Guilderland without threatening the Pinebush - ok. But if not, please find a location where you can do the most good. I will shop there, either way.

I say to Guilderland Town Board leaders: I understand you want the tax revenue, it would be nice. However I just read in the Capital District Business Review that The Albany Pinebush is ranked #17 on the Festivals and Tourist Attractions list - with 100,000+ visitors annually. The Pine Bush is an important attraction and one-of-a-kind destination UNIQUE to Guilderland. Perhaps effort needs to be expended to figure out how to better capitalize on this traffic, rather than diminish a singular natural habitat at the expense of a commercial business that has multiple options for its location.

Please consider this carefully as we cannot re-create this priceless habitat once it is developed. Preserve the the Albany Pinebush for your children and grandchildren.

Sincerely
Michele Desrosiers

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