

June 11, 2021

Mr. Pat Wilson
Ga. Department of Economic Development
Technology Square
75 5th Street NW, Suite 1200
Atlanta, Ga 30308

Sir,

As part of a number of Franklin County Citizens' research into information associated with our recent successful opposition to a Pilgrim's Pride Rendering Plant in our county, we have come to the realization that we have some serious issues with our Franklin County Industrial Building Authority (IBA). The most serious issue is the way the 1962 Constitutional Amendment establishing that IBA defined the staffing of it (i.e., Mayors of the 5 towns in the county plus 2 members appointed by the Board of Commissioners). Looking at the 2010 census and taking into account the increase of 6.4% (1420 people) in the 2020 census (Franklin County Citizen Leader May 27, 2021), a conservative estimate of current population density of Franklin County is towns=35% and rural=65% while the staffing of the IBA is 5 Mayors=71% and 2 Commissioner appointed individuals =29%. We feel, and the numbers show, that the rural population has little or no representation in the activities of the IBA while at the same time the rural population pays taxes with a millage rate of .2500 of those taxes going to the IBA (plus a percentage of the SPLOST V income). This rings just like the cry of our forefathers "No taxation without representation". In addition, it is a somewhat obvious thought that comes to mind, true or not, that the town mayors, with no pay for being on the IBA and having an elected job as a mayor, have a built-in conflict of interest that should be eliminated.

It is the strong desire of a large group of Franklin County Citizens that our IBA be reconstructed to an equitable representation of all our county Citizens in the IBA. We have looked at the website of our neighbors in Stephens County with their "Stephens County Development Authority" which seems to be more in line with our desire. Unfortunately, the 1962 Resolution establishing the Franklin County IBA definition of membership (i.e., Mayors of the 5 towns in the county plus 2 members appointed by the Board of Commissioners) seems to be a major hinderance to us for moving forward from the amendment's constraints made almost 60 years ago.

A couple specific question I have are: What is the difference in an "Industrial Building Authority" and a "Development Authority"? Is there a path or need to transition from a "Building Authority" to a "Development Authority"?

I have recently sent a letter to our Representative Alan Powell with the same information I am providing here but to date have not received a response. Is there any direction you may be able to provide that would help us with our situation?

Respectfully,

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