

February 18, 2022

Commissioner Pat Wilson
Georgia Department of Economic Development
75 5th Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30308

Dear Commissioner Wilson:

Our group of county governments is encouraged and challenged by the amount of public interest in the proposed Rivian project. We have received a large number of public responses with a wide array of opinions.

We understand that the State sees this project as a generational opportunity for our community that will support our local tax base, help our schools, and give our families and children a chance to earn a good living close to home. We also understand that the State is eager to be part of the national effort to create a cleaner and renewable energy future for transportation.

It is absolutely critical that we get this right by listening to the ideas of our citizens and incorporating them into site development and the business operations that will follow. We are pleased that Rivian has expressed a high level of excitement about listening to local residents and incorporating their recommendations into this project.

The Joint Development Authority is award-winning and has had great success with three of the largest economic development projects in Georgia history. Because of their efforts, Takeda and Facebook call Stanton Springs home and the three projects they represent combined will create more than 2,000 jobs and invest up to \$85 billion dollars in infrastructure and equipment. Despite our robust experience and capable team, the challenge the JDA is facing with the Rivian project is providing the level of public input and response that citizens spanning four counties are seeking and deserve. For this reason, the State of Georgia should consider taking the lead in the next steps on this historic project which we believe are the following:

1. **Creation of a robust public advisory process that covers the critical areas of site development, environmental protection, related infrastructure, workforce development, community benefit and land conservation.** This process should involve state and local government leaders to develop recommendations and include well-organized opportunities for public input.
2. **Assurances that the development of the site will comply with all locally required standards for water quality, grey water discharge and stormwater runoff.** These are

priority issues for residents near the site, and it is important that Morgan County's leaders have a continued role in this aspect of the project.

3. **Engagement with the state and local elected leaders from our area to develop a proposed land conservation initiative to protect the rural character of the area around the facility.** This must be a priority and we should work together to build a thoughtful approach that can be a model for other communities seeking to balance job growth and conservation in a thoughtful way. This will take time and cooperation, and may require legislation in future years, but if we begin the process now we can get it right.
4. **Unification of the zoning, regulatory compliance and code compliance processes going forward.** Simply put, it has become apparent that complying with the numerous state, federal and local laws, rules and polices around the site requires a higher resource level than we can bring to bear locally. Our citizens deserve a well-organized chance to provide input and a consolidated development plan that can take that input and make it reality.

We understand that for the State of Georgia to carry out this process, it will take title to the real estate.

Thank you for your consideration.

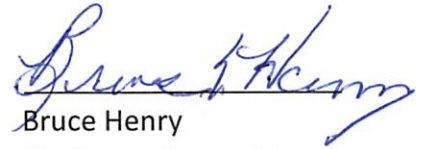
Sincerely,



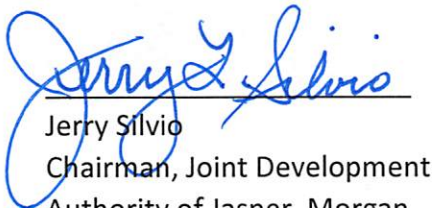
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