



**Protecting Our Quality Of Life
For Generations To Come**

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Office of Proceedings
April 10, 2023
Part of
Public Record

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Townline Rail Terminal, LLC - Docket Number: FD 36575

April 8, 2023

Dear Chairman Oberman,

Townline Association is assisting residents with the public comment process. Attached are letters to be included for your consideration. In accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1104.12, I have cc'd the parties of record on this correspondence.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Henninger

Linda Henninger
Townline Association
Lh.townline@gmail.com

Cc: Parties

To: The Honorable Martin J. Oberman Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of a Freight Train railroad and terminal only 2 miles away from my home on 5 Silo Road in Commack. This rail yard would have a detrimental impact on the health and well-being of the residents of this densely populated residential area.

As you are aware, the trains carrying hazardous waste and construction debris would emit toxic pollution that would contaminate the air and the underground aquifer. This poses a serious health risk to the residents, particularly the children who attend North Ridge elementary and Commack High school located just 1 mile away from the proposed site.

Furthermore, the disposal of incinerated ash from the Convanta waste facility on Town Line Road in East Northport, which is one of the proposed uses of this train, would only exacerbate the already dire situation of air pollution in the area. This poses a serious threat to the environment and public health. Not only will this freight yard create air pollution from diesel fumes, dust, and particulates, but there will also be noise pollution from the sound of horns, screeching from trains, trucks, forklifts, and other machinery. In addition there is the potential of water pollution from the infiltration of contaminants into long island aquifers, the sole source of drinking water for the entire population of Long Island.

We have all witnessed the disastrous consequences of train derailments in other states, and the possibility of such an event occurring in our backyard is simply unacceptable. We cannot allow the safety and well-being of our community to be compromised for the sake of corporate profit.

Moreover, in order for this freight train rails to be approved, the zoning laws would have to be changed, setting a dangerous precedent for other companies to do the same. This would only lead to more harm being inflicted upon our community and the environment.

Therefore, I urge you to reconsider the approval of the proposed freight train railroad and terminal. Instead, I request that you take into account the safety and well-being of the residents of Commack, Kings Park and East Northport and prioritize their interests over the profits of corporate entities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Michele Drotman
Shellydrot@hotmail.com

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: TOWNLINE RAIL TERMINAL, LLC, DOCKET NUMBER. FD 36575

Honorable Martin J. Oberman,

Please save our family neighborhood. Stop Carlson corp's request to build a railroad spur and regional freight yard terminal at their property at 140 Old Northport Road, Kings Park, NY. They have attempted to hide this application from our community. This community is not appropriate for such a large Industrial operation. It will add much noise, pollution, traffic and is a danger to our families Health, Wealth and Happiness. It will bring down all our Home Values we have worked years to maintain.

Thank you,

Blaise & Maritza Baumgarth
5 Sallys Path
Fort Salonga, NY 11768
516-807-1310

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Townline Rail Terminal, LLC – Docket Number: FD 36575

Dear Chairman Oberman,

The plans to construct and operate a new rail line in the hamlet of Kings Park, New York, will be damaging to our community. Townline Rail Terminal, LLC, an affiliate of CarlsonCorp, Inc. wants to extend approximately 5,000 feet on a portion of its property that would run parallel to the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) Port Jefferson Line. It will be a regional train yard with five tracks totaling 9,400 feet, two buildings totaling 100,000 square feet and a 161-freight car capacity totaling 10,456 feet of train.

The train yard will be only 500 feet away from established residential neighborhoods in Kings Park and very close to residential homes in Fort Salonga, which is where I live. The other neighborhoods that will be negatively impacted are East Northport and Commack, which all also border the projected area. There are several schools, playgrounds, and a nursing home nearby the proposed rail yard. There is also a federally classified deep recharge area for a sole source aquifer.

These trains will be hauling not only ash, but also unassociated construction and demolition debris. Since the freight terminal also has the capability to provide rail service to other carriers, any future hauls of potentially hazardous materials could bring about possible toxic exposures to our communities.

The surrounding communities were never advised by local state or federal officials about these plans, and now that we are all becoming aware of this disastrous plan for the freight yard and all that it encompasses, we are loudly voicing our opposition! Please put a stop to this freight yard!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Pusateri". The script is cursive and fluid.

Maria Pusateri

8 Dolores Lane

Fort Salonga, NY 11768

The Honorable Martin Oberman, Chairman
Surface transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington DC 20423

Re: Surface Transportation Board decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Dear Chairman Oberman,

As long time residents of Fort Salonga, NY, we have recently learned that Townline Rail Terminal, LLC, an affiliate of CarlsonCorp, Inc., plans to construct and operate a new rail line in the hamlet of Kings Park, New York. We are absolutely opposed to this plan.

First of all, the plans fail to show that the train yards will be only 500 feet from residential neighborhoods in Kings Park and, almost as close, to Fort Salonga. This site is also close to thousands of homes in East Northport, Northport and Commack.

There are eight schools within a two-and-a-half mile radius to the proposed rail yard. What is not stated is that the area includes a federal government classified deep recharge area for a sole source aquifer. The last the community knew, there was going to be an indoor compost facility on this property (2018), not a regional train yard with five tracks totaling 10,000 feet, two buildings with one almost 2 acres in size, along with a freight car capacity for 161 cars, totaling 10,456 feet of train, all neighboring homes with young children.

No reasonable person would believe that a berm would ever hide the noise, fumes, site, and most importantly, not minimize the numerous health risks this yard threatens. With the proximity to residential neighborhoods and to the deep recharge sole source aquifer, we cannot understand how the Surface Transportation Board granted a waiver to Townline Rail to forego a full Environmental Statement for a scaled down Environmental Analysis.

The ground water from this industrial park has resulted in a large pollution plume north and east. By allowing CarlsonCorp to build a rail terminal on this site, on top of what is already devastated and overburdened ground, surrounding families will be affected and will be the ones paying the price with their health and the health of their children.

It is important that you know that our communities already bear the burden of environmental blight including the Huntington Resource Recovery Facility (Covanta Incinerator), the Northport Power Plant, the nearby Huntington and Smithtown landfills and their methane burners/vents, the medical waste incinerators at St. Catherine's Medical Center and the Northport VA Hospital.

We respectfully ask that the Surface Transportation Board revisit the OEA's decision on revising the move from an EIS to an EA based on prior operations of CarlsonCorp and its subsidiaries. There are better solutions for the use of this property and we will be happy to work with any stakeholders to solve this important problem.

Sincerely
Barbara and Irwin Jebaltosky
4 Amanda Court
Fort Salonga, NY 11768 631793-1300 ijaye@aol.com

George Korsanos
2 Stirrup Lane
Northport, NY 11768
gkorsanos@gmail.com

April 3, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket # FD_36575

I am in steadfast and total agreement with the salient point made in this correspondence. In addition, I am steadfastly opposed to this ill-conceived, poorly-planned, un-thoughtful, inconsiderate and dangerous railroad hub because:

- 1) For my entire life I worked hard to purchase a house for my family, just to have someone come in and devalue the house to peanuts.
- 2) I pay over \$20,000 in Real Estate Taxes, to soon have a Toxic Rail Terminal built a stone throw away from the house.
- 3) I have two children that attend Kings Park High School, just to be awake all night long due to transportation of toxic elements during the night. The next morning they will be in terrible shape to attend class. Lets us not forget the toxic fumes they will be breathing.
- 4) For my \$20,000 in Real Estate Taxes my family will be getting a special dosage of toxic materials. I wonder if your office investigated that Long Island faces significant problems with Leukemia, Breast Cancer, autism and other?
- 5) Did you analyze that a few feet away, a Recharge Basin, filtering water for Long Island's ONLY water supply (underground aquifer) exists???
- 6) Did you consider that the entire population of Long Island literally stands to be poisoned by the toxic garbage ash contamination of the water supply??? Did you consider the potential of hazardous spills???
- 7) If I understand correctly, the current owner of the property proposed for the Rail Terminal will be getting paid. Did anyone calculate that the destruction to the area, (values of houses, health, lack of sleep, etc.) is much greater???
- 8) In summary, one individual benefits and thousands suffer!!! I thought America is the number one democracy in the world. Unfortunately the aforementioned actions/decisions are not democratic!!!
- 9) All the decisions to built this Rail Terminal are made in Washington D.C.. Come and visit Kings Park, Northport or Long Island.
- 10) How would you like someone coming and building something similar outside of your residence??? You would fight it. Same here!!!

Thank you for reading my letter and please re-evaluate your plans. If you have any questions, please contact me. **I reject the Rail Hub!!!**

George Korsanos

April 8, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board 395
E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Dear Chairman Oberman,

My name is Cheryl Calderone. I live in Fort Salonga with my husband and 2 children. We purchased our house 4 years ago in this beautiful hamlet surrounded by nature. I was very surprised to hear about the proposed freight yard by Carlson Corp in the Commack and Kings Park area. It just didn't make sense as to why that would be developed here and so close to residential houses. As with many of my neighbors, we are bewildered by this proposal. And we certainly do not wish to have this so close to our house and community. My first concern is the pollution and air quality issues this introduces. I do not wish to breathe that in or have my 10 and 3 year old children exposed to that. Exhaust from freight trains is frightening. I hear this proposal is for a 5 to 7 track rail spur. That's a lot of tracks and makes me really question, how many freight trains will be rolling in? Besides health risks, my second concern are environmental concerns. This all sounds so bad for our environment, could this contaminate land and water? That could really lead to serious future issues. I really hope in depth environmental testing is being conducted in helping to render a sound and safe decision. I have not heard of any testing that's been conducted thus far and the results. My other concern I'll raise, are the quality of life expectations. How will operating freight trains all through the night allow families to sleep undisturbed? I just don't see how that won't be compromised. There have been a lot of houses for sale since Covid and new families coming in. I worry there will be a mad exodus with the news of the freight yard. It makes me question the longevity of my own tenure in Fort Salonga. When we bought our house 4 years ago, it was our forever house. But this freight yard is forcing me to rethink the longer-term plan.

I hope you will think about the concerns I express and can keep these in mind as you determine the fate of this community and their families. This is not the right place to operate a freight yard. I strongly urge you to reject this freight yard proposal for the residents and the future for our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Cheryl Calderone
67 Sunken Meadow Road
Northport, NY 11768

April 7, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman

Chairman

Surface Transportation Board 395
E Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Dear Chairman Oberman,

My name is Janice Fagan and I have been a resident of Huntington Station all my life. I was born and raised here and now own a house with my husband. My elderly parents live in Centerport and most of my siblings live in the surrounding area too. But my brother, his wife and children live in Fort Salonga, up the road from the proposed freight yard in the Commack and Kings Park area. They are very upset about the possibilities of this freight yard being built. The thought of the exhaust and pollution that will be generated from the freight train traffic and the operation of increased trucks is terrifying. They live in such a beautiful hamlet. It would be such a shame to see their neighborhood be changed for the worse. I mostly fear for what health risks will be introduced with this freight yard. I worry about them, their children and my elderly parents being exposed to the toxins that would come from the freight yard. I'm also concerned about the impact of this to all of Long Island, as the freight trains would travel across the island passing through my town and many others. I understand the freight trains will run during the night, creating noise and disturbing those within earshot. I can hear the trains currently from my house and I can only imagine it being worse with this, waking us and many others all through the night.

I urge you to think about the families of Long Island as you make the ultimate decision about this freight yard.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Janice Fagan

291 Nassau Road

Huntington, NY 11743

April 7, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board 395
E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Dear Chairman Oberman,

My name is Matt Fagan and I have been a resident of Huntington Station for the past 10 years. I bought my house and live here with my wife. I have come to hear about the proposed freight yard by Carlson Corp in the Commack and Kings Park area. I understand this is being stood up to resolve the garbage ash problem with the Brookhaven landfill closing in the very near future. I just don't understand why each township is dealing with this problem in isolation. We should be talking to the other townships and coming up with a centralized solution. It doesn't make sense to have multiples of these rail spurs to deal with the garbage ash problem. And the one in Kings Parks that accounts for the garbage ash from Huntington is being proposed in an area so close to residential houses. I would be very upset if that was running next to my back yard. The exhaust and pollution that will be generated from the passing freight trains and the operation of the freight yard all through the evening is going to be creating lots of noise disturbing families trying to sleep. How will they be able to sleep? My house is about 2 miles from the Huntington train station and I can hear the trains. I can't even imagine how I would be able to sleep if that noise was happening all through the night and louder with freight trains.

I write this letter in hopes of you and your team thinking of us Long Islanders as you make your decision to approve or reject the Carlson Corp application. I strongly encourage you to reject this freight yard proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Matt Fagan
291 Nassau Road
Huntington, NY 11743

April 8, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board 395
E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Dear Chairman Oberman,

My name is Normal Calderone. I grew up in Freeport Long Island, moved to Huntington Station when I married and raised my children and now live with my 95 year old husband in Centerport. My son, daughter and their children live in Fort Salonga. My granddaughter and her family also live in Fort Salonga. They informed me of the proposed freight yard by Carlson Corp in the Commack and Kings Park area. I understand this is being stood up to resolve the garbage ash problem with the Brookhaven landfill closing in the very near future. A freight yard so close to their houses just horrifies me. I think you can understand the worries I would have of pollution and toxins being breathed in by my loved ones. I fear for my grandchildren and great grandchildren, they range from the ages of 13 to 3. It upsets me to think of the freight train and truck exhaust that will be generated that they will be exposed to. Will it be safe for them to play in their backyards? Will it be safe for them to breathe in that air as they play soccer on the nearby fields? Will it be safe for them to play outside at school recess? Will it be safe for them to take in that air quality riding bikes with their friends? This is not good for them and their health. This would also be damaging to their quality of life. How will they be able to sleep through the night with freight trains operating all through the wee hours? Will they no longer be able to open their windows to get fresh air? Will they need to shield themselves however possible from the pollutants and noise? Is a freight yard so close to residential areas safe? This raises a lot of concerns and I worry for their safety.

I hope you will think about the concerns I express and can keep these in mind as you determine the fate of this community and their families. This is not the right place to operate a freight yard. I strongly urge you to reject this freight yard proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Norma Calderone
120 Hayes
Centerport, NY 11721

April 8, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board 395
E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Dear Chairman Oberman,

My name is Richard Calderone. I grew up in Huntington and purchased my first house there with my wife and raised our 7 children there. I now live with my 90 year old wife in Centerport. My son, daughter and their children live in Fort Salonga. My granddaughter and her family also live in Fort Salonga. They informed me of the proposed freight yard by Carlson Corp in the Commack and Kings Park area. I understand this is being stood up to resolve the garbage ash problem with the Brookhaven landfill closing in the very near future. A freight yard so close to their houses just horrifies me. I think you can understand the worries I would have of pollution and toxins being breathed in by my loved ones. I fear for my grandchildren and great grandchildren, they range from the ages of 13 to 3. It upsets me to think of the freight train and truck exhaust that will be generated that they will be exposed to. Will it be safe for them to play in their backyards? Will it be safe for them to breathe in that air as they play soccer on the nearby fields? Will it be safe for them to play outside at school recess? Will it be safe for them to take in that air quality riding bikes with their friends? This is not good for them and their health. This would also be damaging to their quality of life. How will they be able to sleep through the night with freight trains operating all through the wee hours? Will they no longer be able to open their windows to get fresh air? Will they need to shield themselves however possible from the pollutants and noise? Is a freight yard so close to residential areas safe? This raises a lot of concerns and I worry for their safety. Our other daughters and sons also live in neighboring communities in Huntington and Centerport. The proposed freight yard is not in our backyards but it's still too close to our houses too. This proposal affects all of us and I am speaking on our behalf too.

I hope you will think about the concerns I express and can keep these in mind as you determine the fate of this community and their families. This is not the right place to operate a freight yard. I strongly urge you to reject this freight yard proposal.

Regards,

Richard Calderone
120 Hayes
Centerport, NY 11721

April 3, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board 395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423
RE: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD 36575

Dear Chairman Oberman:

Although I am not a resident of the community which will certainly be impacted if the Townline Rail Terminal, LLC proposal passes, I have family and friends who are. I am absolutely appalled that this potential venture is even being entertained. I cannot help but think about the tragic events that recently unfolded in East Palestine, Ohio.

Children who reside in the immediate area, as well as the surrounding areas, will undoubtedly be negatively impacted, and as a result, their growth and development will be compromised. What about the adults....should they not be permitted to live a life free of disease that incinerated ash, debris and all the toxins related to this project will surely produce? These toxins will leave a trail of health issues and environmental devastation that most certainly will continue for many years to come.

In addition to the above-mentioned, the lives of these people will never be the same — there will be noise pollution, water pollution and the list goes on and on.

Due to the negative impact on the environment, real estate is bound to take a nose dive. If this proposal passes, current homeowners will surely be fleeing the area in droves, and thereby suffering a financial blow if by chance their property even sells at all. As we all know, anyone who is researching the purchase of a potential new home, does a deep informational dive into their area of interest. Soon they will be privy to all that has transpired. Even if they perceive they are getting a "deal" on a potential home, their minds will quickly change as they become increasingly aware of the imminent danger they and their families will face. Health and a clean environment come first and foremost over anything else, as you cannot place a monetary value on ones' right to live and flourish in a safe area.

To all of those concerned and involved community residents who have been working tirelessly over the last several months to try and put an end to this madness, we appreciate your efforts, and thank you for all you have done, and still are continuing to do.

Now I am looking to you Mr. Chairman, to do the right thing, and take the ONLY course of action, and reject this proposal.

Very truly yours,



Israela Saper
269-10 Grand Central Parkway
Apt. A
Floral Park, NY 11005 israelasaper@gmail.com

April 6, 2023

Honorable Martin J. Oberman

Chairman

Transportation Surface Board

395 E. Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Dear Honorable Chairman Oberman,

I am opposed to the development of this freight yard. The environmental and biological impact will negatively affect the delicate balance of our communities and residents involved. The proposed area is already burdened with chemical, light and noise pollution from truck emissions sand mining, concrete crushing and asphalt production.

According to Carlsoncorp's plans, the proposed freight train rail terminal would have freight trains transporting toxic waste materials like incinerator ash and unloading commodities like cars and lumber, at any time throughout the day and night. Diesel locomotives are noisy, running constantly in colder weather.

Please do not support the change from Light Industrial zone to Heavy Industrial zone to allow this freight yard development in our precious residential communities.

Sincerely,

Roseann Moran

15 Ripley Drive

Northport, NY 11768

tntrmoran@yahoo.com

April 3.2023

The Honorable Martin Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FDD_36575

Mr. Chairman:

With reference to above, I oppose the Carlson Corp Freight Yard in Kings Park pending decision.

This has been kept very quite and residents have had no input.

The area being considered is already saturated with heavy construction trucks due to mason and rock businesses), a bus company, recycling center and town dump. (Which recently has been re-opened)

Isn' t that enough for our town?

ENOUGH!

Valerie Meis
Valerie.meis@gmail.com
Kings Park

Donna Peluso
7 Bernard St
Northport, New York 11768

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington D.C. 20423

Subject: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD 36575

Chairman Oberman,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed CarlsonCorp freight yard that would be located in Kings Park, New York. I moved to the Fort Salonga area (very close to the proposed project location) several years ago after enduring for decades the crowdedness, noise and pollution of Queens in New York City. Now I face the prospect of some of those things following me out on to Long Island. I cannot adequately express my disappointment and outrage at this notion.

I have moderate COPD, which will likely be aggravated by increased particulate pollution that will be an unavoidable result of this project. Moreover, the increased noise, light pollution, and train traffic will greatly diminish the quality of life I thought I had finally secured after decades working my ass off in Queens and saving my money to escape the blight and degradation of that area.

I urge you to hear my and the other voices opposing this project and please do the right thing. Do not let this project proceed. I put my faith and trust in your wisdom.

Sincerely,

Donna Peluso (signed electronically)

Donna Peluso
donnashea64@live.com
347-356-5966

April 6th, 2023

From: Joseph R. and Susan Franco
2 Marcelle Ct.
Ft. Salonga, NY 11768

Re: Townline Rail Terminal (Kings Park, Fort Salonga, NY)
Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Honorable Oberman,

We implore you to reconsider the construction of this rail yard, for several key reasons:
Infringement on residential neighborhood residents (pollution, noise, potential contamination of the sole source aquifer) and most importantly, the will of the people!

Historical nature of our community will be lost, since Ft. Slongo in the Revolutionary era carries our basic premise of: pursuit of freedom, happiness and one with nature.

Residents inhabit this area as a refuge from all things this rail yard represents.

We do have the will and persistence to stop this (land grab) for industrial development by our votes within either party.

PLEASE STOP THIS NOW!!!

Jane and Randy Kay
22 Empire Ct.
Commack, NY 11725
randykaydds@gmail.com

April 2, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board 395 E Street, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Dear Sir:

My wife and I are very concerned about Carlsoncorp's request to build a railroad spur and a regional freight rail terminal at 140 Old Northport Rd. in Kings Park. Where we live is already overburdened by industry that exposes us to pollution such as the Huntington (Covanta) Incinerator, two, now-capped landfills and their methane venting systems and many light industries such as sand mining and asphalt production along with the trucks that continuously serve their businesses. Most of these operations were built since we moved into our house 35 years ago. It seems this is the go-to area for industries even though it is in such close proximity to densely-populated residential areas. Enough is enough! Carlsoncorp's plans to have a freight train railroad terminal operating between 10pm and 5am is not showing any concern for our families.

It is also disconcerting that Carlsoncorp's did not involve the community in its plans. This was kept very quiet until an article appeared in the local paper, Smithtown News. That is not how to convince a community that you understand their concerns.

Please deny this request for a freight rail terminal. Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Jane and Randy Kay