

Katherine Andrus
Federal Preservation Officer
Manager, Environmental Policy and Operations (AEE-400)
Federal Aviation Administration
Office of Environment and Energy
800 Independence Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20591

August 26, 2020

Dear Ms. Andrus:

This letter is to express alarming concern about the request by the City of Joliet to annex the property owned by the United States of America located at 22513 S. Rowell Avenue in Jackson Township, Illinois with the exclusive purpose of a private initiative by NorthPoint Development, LLC to develop massive trucking warehouses, including a private bridge build along Old Historic Route 66 to be used exclusively for NorthPoint Development, LLC. Although we respect the right of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) position to remain neutral in local matters, we are bringing to your attention the effects that your decision specified in the letter dated June 10, 2020 will have on multiple national historic sites. We ask that you complete a proper Section 106 Process under the National Historic Preservation Act.

Without question, any undertaking by the FAA short of complete objection to the annexation of this FAA property will trigger direct and indirect catastrophic effects on numerous local, regional, state and national historic sites – several of which impact our veteran heroes.

To cite the FAA's Section 106 Handbook dated June 2015 page 6, "The FAA's legal obligation is to ensure that full consideration is given to the effect of the undertaking on historic properties by consulting with other parties in good faith and completing the Section 106 process before making a final decision."

We, the Joliet Stone City VFW Post 2199; the Joliet American Legion Buffalo Soldier Memorial Post 241; the Veterans of the Menominee Nation; the New Lenox Harry E. Anderson VFW Post 9545; World War II U.S. Army Air Force Veteran B-17 Bomber "Flying Fortress" Radioman Attilio "Ted" Micci of Joliet; WWII U. S. Army Air Force Veteran P-38 Crew Chief Felix Pasteris of Joliet; U.S. Army Air Force Veteran Motor Pool Supervisor Wade Krohn of New Lenox; Stop NorthPoint, LLC, and numerous area veterans' non-profit groups including Cheers to the Warriors NFP, K9s for Veterans NFP, and Veterans Outreach Services of Illinois NFP all implore you to consider the following historic sites all

within immediate proximity to NorthPoint's trucking warehouses, which is the sole purpose of the requested annexation:

- Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery
- Reed's Grove Cemetery (within ALNC with graves dating to 1830)
- Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
- Grant Creek Site (a 400-year-old Native American archeology site within Midewin)
- Historic Route 66 from Wilmington to Joliet (on National Historic Registry)
- Old Route 66 (along Mississippi Avenue in Elwood / Jackson Township)
- Maple Hill Cemetery (Independence War and Civil War veterans)
- Brown Cemetery (historically known as Jackson's Grove Cemetery with veterans, with graves dating to the 1830s)
- Troutman's Grove Cemetery (with graves dating to 1830s)
- North Providence Ridge Cemetery (with graves dating to 1840s)
- Boylan-Noel Farmstead (identified as qualifying for National Historic Registry)
- Coldwater Century Farmstead seed dealership (with numerous historically significant structures and proprietary seed)
- Midewin Buffer District (determined historically significant)
- Multiple historically significant farmsteads and landmarks

Annexation of the FAA property into Joliet is intended exclusively for NorthPoint's trucking warehouses, approximately 2200 acres for phase one. The effects will both directly and indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties. The FAA's allowance for the subject property to be annexed into Joliet would diminish the integrity of the historic property's design, setting, feeling and association. The adverse effects would be both immediate and cumulative over time.

Examples of just a few of the many adverse effects include:

- Continued and increased physical destruction to the cemeteries by semi tractor trailers driving over graves;
- Physical destruction to Midewin's conservation efforts and bison range from air pollution, smog and hazardous materials;
- Physical destruction to the entire area due to depletion of aquifer;
- Alteration of current agriculture property, including hazardous materials waste that is inconsistent with standards for treatment of historical properties set forth in 36 CRF § 68;
- Change of character of the property's use, specifically irreparably altering Historic Route 66 into a private-use semi truck bridge;
- Change of character by destroying proprietary farm seed, destroying historical farmstead buildings;

- Change of character of the property's use by surrounding a historic cemetery with trucking warehouses;
- Introduction of visual elements that diminish the integrity by introducing extreme light pollution on the warehouses' directional lighting seen for miles;
- Introduction of audible elements that diminish the integrity of the cemeteries by building a semi truck bridge immediately adjacent to and overtop of Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and Maple Hill Cemetery carrying tens of thousands of trucks per day.

Specifically, we ask that the FAA coordinate with the National Environmental Policy Act, according to 36 CFR § 800.8. We are also seeking an Advisory Council of Historic Preservation review according to 36 CFR §800.9. Further, we are asking that the 106 process identifies us, the aforementioned groups, as consulting parties during the public involvement phase.

Most sincerely,



Kevin Polymagala
Commander
Stone City Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2199
U.S. Navy Retired



James K. Shaw
Commander, Buffalo Soldier Memorial
American Legion Post 241 Joliet



Michael Pamoncutt, U.S.M.C.
Veterans of Menominee Nation
Gold Star Family
Descendant of Indian Chief



Timothy Terrell
Junior Vice Commander, VFW District 18
Commander, Harry E. Anderson
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9545 New Lenox

[REDACTED]
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Ron Adamski, U.S. Navy
President
Stop NorthPoint, LLC

[REDACTED]
Attilio "Ted" Micci of Joliet, IL
U.S. Army Air Force Veteran
B-17 Bomber "Flying Fortress" Radioman
World War II 25 Missions

[REDACTED]
Wade Krohn of New Lenox, IL
U.S. Army Air Force Veteran
Motor Pool Supervisor, Adak Island, Alaska
World War II

[REDACTED]
Jonathan Jans, U.S.M.C.
President
Cheers to the Warriors, NFP

[REDACTED]
Bruce "Ty" Keller, U.S.M.C.
President
Veterans Outreach Services of Illinois

[REDACTED]
Michael Tellerino
President
K9s for Veterans NFP

Cc:

Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Tammy Duckworth
Rep. Robin Kelly
Rep. Adam Kinzinger
Rep. Bobby Rush
Rebecca B. MacPherson
Rebecca A. Holmes