

May 13, 2008

To the Macoupin County Board:

My name is Allen Lash and I am President of AgriSolutions Inc. Our company has provided financial, consulting and other business related services to farmers for this is the 41<sup>st</sup> year. Our job as a company has been and is to help farmers of all sizes (part-time, medium, and large operations) succeed and attain their personal objectives.

Agriculture crop production is in the beginning phases of dramatic consolidation. Agriculture crop consolidation is no different than consolidation that is occurring in most businesses and industries throughout not only the United States, but the world. Personally, I don't like it. Every time we lose a farmer in this country, our company loses a potential client, however, I have found that I am unable to change the consolidation and I have tried. I have personally been to Washington, D.C and the USDA in an attempt to help alleviate this consolidation. Personally and as a company, we would support this inclusion in the enterprise zone whether this was a small, mid-sized or large agriculture operation. In our opinion, it is good business for counties to demonstrate, in tangible ways, support for agriculture, a primary industry.

As I understand, there is a proposal before you to expand your enterprise zone to include a large agriculture producer. I hope you will support that initiative. Failure to support that initiative, in my opinion sends several wrong messages to agriculture. An interesting question would be, would there be a vote no for another agriculture business that ask for the same consideration? For example, an ethanol plant, an agriculture supply business, or numerous other potential agriculture businesses. A negative vote says that Macoupin County, one of the largest agricultural counties in the state, is not supportive of agriculture businesses.

I speak to this issue not only on behalf of agriculture, but because I am also on the interim board of the Regional Economic Development Initiative, bringing new business into our four county region of Macoupin, Jersey, Montgomery and Green. I do not intend to speak for the board, but I am speaking as board member for Jersey County and a landowner in Macoupin County. It is difficult enough to develop agriculture in our region without sending a negative message to an entire industry.

I hope that individuals can set aside personal bias and support what is in the best interest of Macoupin County and the four counties comprising of our Regional Economic Initiative. Thank you for your consideration.

I remain sincerely,

E. Allen Lash

*Handwritten signature/initials*

ORDINANCE # \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MACOUPIN COUNTY ENTERPRISE ZONE  
& THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF  
GILLESPIE, ILLINOIS, CITY OF CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS AND MACOUPIN COUNTY,  
ILLINOIS**

WHEREAS, the economy in the City of Gillespie, the City of Carlinville and the County of Macoupin and the adjacent areas is severely depressed; and

WHEREAS, the unemployment rate in the City of Gillespie, the City of Carlinville and Macoupin County exceeds both the state and national rates of unemployment; and

WHEREAS, these economic conditions adversely impact upon the individual citizens, business and taxing authorities within the City of Gillespie, the City of Carlinville and Macoupin County;

WHEREAS, the "Illinois Enterprise Zone Act", 20 ILCS 655/1, et sec., authorizes a municipality by ordinance to designate an area within its jurisdiction as an enterprise zone, subject to the certification of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Gillespie, Illinois, the City of Carlinville, Illinois and the Board of Macoupin County, Illinois have passed an intergovernmental agreement pertaining to the governing and administration of an enterprise zone; and

WHEREAS, the designating unit (s) of the government have conducted at least one public hearing within the Enterprise Zone on the question of amending the tax incentives and benefits provided by the ordinance. Public notice of the hearing on January 29, 2008 was published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the zone not more than 20 days nor less than 5 days before the said public hearing; and

WHEREAS, in order to conform with the statute and the provisions of the Enterprise Zone and the expected tax incentive benefits as stated in the intergovernmental agreement, it must also be amended to provide for the revised tax incentive benefits by the proposed change in boundaries; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL of the City of Gillespie, Illinois, the City of Carlinville, Illinois and the Board of Macoupin County, Illinois authorize amendments to the MACOUPIN COUNTY ENTERPRISE ZONE and the INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT between these entities as follows:

**Section 1.** The City of Gillespie, Illinois, the City of Carlinville, Illinois, and the Board of Macoupin County, Illinois authorizes amendments to the Macoupin County Enterprise Zone boundaries as follows:

**Adding**

40 acres at 21814 Route 4 Carlinville, IL. The legal description follows:

Tract 1: The South 330 feet even width off the South Side of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 16, Township 10 North, Range 7 West of the Third Principal Meridian containing 10 acres more or less and all improvements there upon.

**Second Tract must be surveyed to show proper acreage. If the project is approved for the EZ, property owner will have property surveyed so the correct legal description can be included in the intergovernmental agreement.**

Parcel #

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chairman

ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Macoupin County Clerk

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor of Carlinville

ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carlinville City Clerk

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor of Gillespie

ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gillespie City Clerk

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_