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KCMO Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee

Sept. 28, 2023

To the KCMO Neighborhood Planning & Development committee:

I am writing to express my concern about the addition of an “On The Go” truck stop at the intersection of 71 Highway and Bannister Road.

The truck stop project will have significant negative impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods and local natural resources. Additional air and noise pollution from truck traffic will add to the burdens borne by adjacent homes and trails, which are already suffering from noise and air pollution from being tucked right into the highway.

In addition, the fluids associated with the trucks will undoubtedly make their way to the nearby Blue River. The Parks Department and several other agencies, including Bridging The Gap, just received a \$5 million grant to help restore the Blue. Bayer Crop Science just completed a large project to reduce its chemical waste, which will also help clean up the river. A truck stop so close to the Blue will work against these efforts.

As you know, the placement of 71 Highway through these neighborhoods historically was controversial to begin with, splitting up our east side communities, especially neighborhoods of color. For this reason, we should scrutinize whatever happens along this route with special care, and do whatever possible to make amends—such as planting a belt of trees between the highway and the homes, to protect people from air pollution, which is worst near highways! This project, instead, would add to the industrial atmosphere which increasingly characterizes this area, to the detriment of the people who live there.

I respect the needs of the Kansas City economy and know we need these trucks, but is there no other area where the trucks could be placed, farther from our residents? Thank you for your thoughtful approach to this question.

Sincerely,

Kristin Riott  
Executive Director  
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