

**Litke, Sam**

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**From:** Matt Varner <matt.l.varner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 19, 2016 6:39 PM  
**To:** Litke, Sam  
**Subject:** Keizer Planning issue: Cows vs. Capital

Mr. Litke,

My name is Matt Varner and I am a resident of Keizer. I'll try to brief as I'm sure there are many others taking up your time in the run up to the community meeting concerning the brouhaha piling up around what I understand is the "Cows versus Apartments" debate.

Without going into too great of detail, let me just say that my life was thoroughly wrecked by the economic collapse of '08 and I found my way here through strange twists of Fate (a friend, from here, having moved to CA for years...moved back after the collapse). I am growing to love Keizer a little more each day and I admit that because I don't have much investment planted in the community, perhaps my opinion doesn't matter all that much. But, after listening to the character of some of the loudest voices decrying a loss of rural-ness by the threat of converting some farmland into a new set of apartments, I felt I had to speak up.

This community is strange mixture of values: a desire for services provided by the city but a general, feverish resistance to taxation; a desire for corporate behemoth retailers to grant ease-of-access by coming and building here, but a general reticence against allowing for the growth that such retailers specifically look for before considering whether to invest; a love of Republican capitalist culture, but a distinctly non-'laissez-faire' attitude toward private asset ownership.

Someone might think that I'd be all-in for the redistribution of wealth, poor as I am (I'm politically centrist). And I do firmly believe that this nation can be both strong and fair, supported by market-driven principles but without producing the by-product of 'market losers' at the expense of our national humanity. But, someone needs to come in on the side of the property owners and say 'enough is enough.'

We are told that we are supposed to strive to start a business, buy a home, have a family, put down roots. But what does it mean to put so much of your time on Earth into these activities if the fruits of that effort can just be stripped from you in the future by the simple act of a majority vote of people whose interest is only tangentially linked to your real issue of what to do with the property you own?

I think the naysayers (the people attempting to block the sale of the land in the interest of pursuing it as a historical landmark) need to put up or shut up. That is, the land owners have the right to sell their land to whoever will buy it for whatever gain they can derive from it. If people want it to go to a historical preservation agency, locking into a non-developmental state to preserve the idea that this is some quiet rural town, they need to invest in a some kind of special fund with the goal of providing a counter-offer to the landowners. Let these people buy the land and then they can decide to donate it to for the stated purpose.

Unless they are willing to do that, they are pursuing a very un-American method of punishing those who may have a hundred good reasons for selling in the first place.

Thanks for considering my babble,

Matt Varner  
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