

Statement for public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Town of Kittery Land Use and Development Code by Cumberland Farms.

My name is Keith Lemont and I operate Pine Tree Country Store - a third-generation business - that has operated in Kittery since 1973. I wish to publicly state my opposition to the code amendment proposed by Cumberland Farms for the following reasons.

Over the last decade, and really throughout my entire life, I have observed town citizens, staff, and elected officials express a desire to reshape the Route 1 zone into a more livable and inviting area. Adding residences, pedestrian walkways, and green space are a few of the ideas that have been put forth to achieve this goal. It seems to me that the Foreside area, with its local businesses and library addition, represents the vision the town is working toward. Sticking a Cumberland Farms in the middle of Route 1 is not compatible with the town's vision of the future.

I understand that I am not an impartial observer but I want to point out the difference between myself, the local business owner, and the large out-of-state chain Cumberland Farms. I worked with town staff and board members to update the town code to allow for LED lights on signs. I saw it as a change that would benefit my business, the town, and the environment. It was also beneficial to my competition but I felt that the efficiency gains for every business in town was worth it. In contrast, Cumberland Farms is seeking to narrowly amend the town code for their benefit only. To me, that is not what Kittery and the State of Maine is about.

Thank you for your consideration.