

203 Church St.
Brooklyn, CT 06234
Dec. 7, 2008

Roger Engle, First Selectman
P. O. 356
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Dear Mr. Engle,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed Wal-Mart Supercenter. I am a registered voter in town who supported your candidacy. I do not, however, agree with you about this aspect of economic development for the town. I don't believe for one second that Wal-Mart fits with the rural character of Brooklyn. I recently logged onto the town website and, as I looked at scenes of beautiful greenery and stone walls, I pictured a future website picture that would include a Wal-Mart Supercenter on Route 6. It's not a pretty picture. There are enough Wal-Marts in the vicinity for any Brooklyn resident to shop at. We don't need one in our backyard.

I also don't believe for one second that Wal-Mart will lower my taxes. It will bring low paying jobs to our area, and those workers won't even be able to afford the apartments that my husband and I make available to prospective tenants in Brooklyn. I dread driving on Route 6 to get to Church Street because of the increase in traffic and the increased likelihood of accidents. The crime that Wal-Mart will bring will be an unwelcome addition to the residents. We will surely have to increase our police force to deal with it. Did you see the two lead stories in Saturday's Norwich Bulletin? One was about a shooting at the Putnam Wal-Mart and the other was about an increase in crime now that stores at Killingly Commons have opened. Is that what we want for Brooklyn? Is that a trade-off that we should be willing to make? We could conveniently drive to a discount store, but we will risk life and limb battling the traffic and the criminals who will surely see that as an area of opportunity. I dread needing a firefighter or an EMT since Wal-Mart patrons and employees will surely monopolize those services.

So what is the benefit for me? Will the political integrity of Brooklyn be compromised so that we residents can save a few dollars on our grocery bills? I moved to Brooklyn knowing that I wouldn't have the convenience of a superstore in my backyard, and I've agreed to pay the taxes necessary to maintain the quaint, rural character of my community. I own two properties in town, and I am considering buying a third, but that prospective purchase will look a lot less appealing if I'd have to drive past a Wal-Mart Supercenter to get to it.

Sensible growth for our community is development that increases the quality of life for its residents by maintaining the integrity of the area and preserving the environment. Wal-Mart will do neither of these.

My appeal is for you to reconsider your position on the proposed building of this big box store on Route 6. It really does not represent sensible growth for Brooklyn, and I encourage you to seriously consider the opinions of those of us who oppose it. Your response to my concerns will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Andrea Malone