

February 26, 2021

Mr. Jack Cecil
CEO, Biltmore Farms LLC

Mr. Cecil:

We are a local citizens group that has come together to publicly oppose the Pratt & Whitney development brought to Biltmore Farms by yourself, the Chamber of Commerce, the state, county, a private foundation, and unknown others. We believe that in this time of endless war, climate change, pandemic, and unprecedented wealth inequality, investing in the multinational aerospace and defense industry is the wrong priority. We should be investing in local business and sustainable development instead.

As we see the acreage on your land now deforested and leveled for construction of the plant, and the riversides being prepared for bridge construction, we understand that development is already underway. We also understand that you and the Economic Development Coalition have plans for further development on this site and are actively recruiting other businesses. This we will also publicly oppose.

On Monday, February 22, the *New York Times* reported that Pratt & Whitney's products were involved in two episodes over the weekend in which engines failed in flight, shedding debris over populated areas in Colorado and the Netherlands. In December, the failure of a Pratt & Whitney engine forced a Japan Airlines jetliner to turn around shortly after taking off from Okinawa.

We would like to have a meeting with you to discuss the following:

- What are you & Biltmore Farms gaining from this donation to Pratt & Whitney?
- How are you and Pratt & Whitney assuring that the environment is protected? The soil, the river, the air, the wetlands.
- What do you know about waste removal from the plant?
- Given the recent failures of Pratt & Whitney engines, what are your safety concerns for workers at the plant being planned here?
- What is in the works for expansion of this project? What other businesses are being invited onto the Biltmore Farms property?
- How do your values about sustainability mesh with having an industry that is part of the war economy and a major user of fossil fuels on this land?

We call for you and Biltmore Farms LLC to:

- Stop the destruction of the forest and bridge building
- Retract the gift of land to Pratt & Whitney
- Support only businesses which are just, sustainable, and local
- Commit to public transparency in all further economic development plans

We look forward to your response.

Reject Raytheon
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