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Miami-Dade Resident Files Legal Challenge to the Miami-Dade County Commission Decision to Allow Development of an Industrial Logistic Center in South Dade

DEC. 1 2022 – Long-Time South Miami-Dade County resident [Dr. Nita Lewis](#) today petitioned the state for a formal administrative hearing to review the Board of County Commissioner’s decision, over the veto of Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, to approve a massive industrial center and expand the county’s Urban Development Boundary. The petition asks the State Division of Administrative Hearings to reject the county’s attempt to convert unique farmland in South Dade into a warehouse and commercial complex.

In November, Miami-Dade County commissioners overrode Mayor Daniella Levine Cava’s veto of the controversial and widely panned plan. The petition alleges that the county land use amendment threatens the County’s water supply, requires taxpayer support for development in a designated “Coastal High Hazard Area” that is at risk of flooding, and is in conflict with Everglades restoration plans. The Petition shows how the County’s own professional staff had urged the Board of County Commissioners to deny the Amendment on these precise grounds. Dr. Lewis, who lives in South Dade in close proximity to the boundaries of the property in question, urged the County to reject the Application.

“To ensure that Miami-Dade can prosper now and in the future, our community must take on its greatest challenges, such as sea level rise, flooding, and pollution of Biscayne Bay, worsening traffic, and our affordability crisis. I am concerned that this development will endanger the homes in the area including my own home. Poor planning is the reason so many of these concerns are reaching a crisis point now. Let’s not continue to make the same mistakes.” Lewis said.

The Urban Development Boundary (UDB) was established to ensure smart growth based on need and to ensure an ample supply of farmland and wetlands sufficient to support the growing population in Miami Dade County. The Boundary also served as a demonstration of local support and an assurance to the State and Federal government that land needed to achieve full restoration of the Everglades would be protected so that the multi-billion dollar investment for restoration would not be squandered.

“This decision flies in the face of the protections that the UDB is intended to ensure and the County’s and State’s own growth management laws. It is a threat to our communities, drinking water, Biscayne Bay, Everglades restoration, and our critical climate resiliency efforts. We cannot allow the precedent that this decision sets to stand.” Elizabeth Fata Carpenter, Managing Attorney, Everglades Law Center.

The [Hold the Line Coalition](#) has worked hard for almost two years opposed to this application and stands in support of Dr Lewis’s legal challenge. Dr. Lewis, a nearby property owner, who will be greatly impacted by this decision is represented by Elizabeth Fata Carpenter at the [Everglades Law Center](#), [Richard Grosso PA](#) and [Paul Schwiep](#) at [Coffey Burlington](#).

The petition can be found [here](#).

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About These Organizations



Founded in 2004, The Hold the Line Coalition’s aim is to stop urban sprawl in Miami-Dade County and advocate for allocating public resources toward land preservation, agriculture, public transit and connectivity, blue-green infrastructure, affordable housing, clean air and water. Learn more at www.holdthelinecoalition.org.



The Everglades Law Center is a nonprofit law firm dedicated to representing the public interest in environmental and land use matters. Working with more than thirty national, state and local environmental and conservation groups, our firm utilizes litigation, advocacy and policy development to protect and sustain this region’s unique and irreplaceable ecosystems and communities. Our attorneys are uniquely positioned throughout the Everglades ecosystem and handle a wide range of environmental matters, including land use, wetlands permitting, endangered species, public lands, and sustainable energy development. Learn more at www.evergladeslaw.org.