

# Plaintiffs' Exhibit 17

## **Reader in hopes of campaigning as Commissioner address Pumpkin Ridge Road**

**Editor:**

As many of you know, I am planning to run for County Commissioner in the 2026 election. Currently, I'm not eligible to run as a Republican because of an effort by the Indiana Republican Party to exclude me from the party, but I am hopeful that this will be overturned in my federal lawsuit that is currently pending over this.

Given that I will most likely be campaigning for Commissioner this next year, let me shed some light on how I plan to govern when I am a Commissioner. And, let me do that using the proposed Pumpkin Ridge Road project as an example. The way that I analyze the merits of a project like this is to look first at how it affects those that live closest to a project, and then I look outward from there to see how it will affect others. In other words, I am using a weighted analysis where those that live close to a project deserve greater weight. On the other hand, the interests of those that are less affected individually by a project should be granted less weight on a 1:1 basis. That doesn't mean that nearby property owners will always win in that analysis because nearby property owner opposition could be minor and the needs of the public could be substantial.

Using that form of analysis, my conclusion of the Pumpkin Ridge Road project at this point in time

## **YOUR VIEWS**

is easy. The property owners that live next to that road have come out unanimously against this project, and their arguments are sound. The current road is drivable; there is very little usage of the road; the financial cost of the project is exorbitant; and the impact to the nearby property owners would be substantial. The property owners have put up a very strong case against this project, and I applaud them for their effort. I would do the same thing if I was in their shoes, and in fact, I have actually done that before.

In my opinion, the best solution would be for the county itself to make some modest improvements to Pumpkin Ridge Road without INDOT involvement. The nearby property owners have already expressed support for that approach. If for some reason that is not doable, then we should leave Pumpkin Ridge Road the way it is, which is already completely usable as it is.

**Rich Stanley  
Brown County**

## **Reader thanks highway department**

**Dear Editor:**

Kudos to our Brown County Highway Department for their response to the recent snowstorm. They had sand on our roads near Yellowwood before 6 a.m. Sunday morning. Also, the new, beautiful bridge on Country Club Road - so much safer than the old one and enough room for two cars! Thanks again!

**Marylin Day  
Nashville**