

**EXCERPTS FROM PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COUNTY
BETWEEN MAY 24 AND JUNE 11, 2021**

The following quotes are taken from emails and letters sent to the County prior to the June 23 public hearing. All of those emails and letters were posted, in their entirety, on the County website.

These excerpts have been categorized using the same 13 topics used in other summaries prepared for the County Commission. The dates following the names of submitters refer to the date the submission was posted on the website.

1. Incorporation is the only/best way to protect, preserve the rural character of area

“Their (Edgerton’s) recent actions have proven that they not only do not listen to surrounding property owners in the unincorporated area, but they clearly do not care about rural residential, agricultural preservation, or the Hillsdale watershed - values that are Miami County values as a whole.”

Michael Ludwig, 5/18/21

“While it does stand to reason that many of us moved to this region to avoid city-based restrictions, there comes a point where, for the development of the county and for the greater good, we must all make sacrifices. In this case, we are sacrificing some of the freedoms that come from being unincorporated in deference to other freedoms which are being threatened if we do not incorporate.”

Paul Harrow, 6/1/21

“Your vote will affect the lives of many people far into the future. A vote to approve the incorporation of Golden is a vote to allow the residents of Miami County to protect what is theirs and protect the county as a whole from an aggressive corporate invader. A vote against Golden is a vote to leave the residents of Miami County defenseless and at the mercy of NorthPoint/Edgerton. They will destroy our property values, our way of life and our county.”

Mary Koch, 6/1/21

“I believe that everyone should have a voice when it concerns their home, environment and community. We can say what type of development can or cannot occur within our community. The recent Miami County survey that was completed indicated that residents in Northern Miami county want to remain a rural area. We do not want to become an industrial area. We must be given the tools to protect ourselves... Give us the opportunity to protect ourselves. This is America and we want to have a say in how we live.”

Joyce Ghaisarnia, 6/18/21

“I enjoy this way of life. I do not want my property value to plummet in the event that more warehouses start popping up. The semi truck traffic has increased at a alarming rate in the past year. I would like to see our area to stay rural like. I know this is a hot topic but I do not want to live among commercial property. Please consider a go ahead on Golden so many of us can plan a future.”

Bill Sutcliffe, 6/18/21

“The Miami County Commissioners have an awesome obligation to ensure that change is for the good, for the better. They have a golden opportunity to be a beacon of hope and set an example of how to deal with change in a positive way. Allow us human citizens to form a city where we, the people, get to decide what kind of future we want. Allow us to protect ourselves, our property and the environment.”

Tricia Chitwood, 6/18/21

“With the natural southward growth of the KC metro area, it's difficult to imagine not having some growth eventually in the Golden region of the county. In my neighborhood near 215th and Waverly there is a subdivision just getting underway. If warehouses are halted, I'm sure there will be more growth of this type since this is a very desirable place to live... With our incorporation, we can better determine the type of growth necessary to keep the overall health of the community intact and truly follow the “Golden Criteria” and its intention of keeping the character of the community.”

Tim Dye, 6/18/21

“If you need more convincing that you should vote “YES” on this, please drive around the Golden area, particularly at sunrise with the dew glistening on the fields. You'll agree it's truly one of the most beautiful places in the region and definitely worth fighting for. Then just jaunt on over to Edgerton, where NorthPoint has been making their decisions for them since 2007. It won't take long to figure out where you'd rather live.”

Tim Dye, 6/18/21

“The Miami County Comprehensive Plan Public Survey, was available to all county residents. The survey is a guide for the county's future growth and development. 1,124 residents responded to the survey. Question: I am interested in Miami County because I want to live in the country. That was the response of 93.96% or 1058 of the people that participated. Question: Chose the top three reasons you live in Miami County The number one answer was rural atmosphere. 71% chose that answer. The remaining 29% was spread out over 8 choices. Question : Which of the following is most important to you when deciding where development should occur in Miami County. 42.68% voted to preserve the rural character of the county.”

Dennis Koch, 6/16/21

“Nature and peace are destroyed as trees are killed, the ground is flattened, and concrete is poured. The ground is manipulated in a manner that affects how water will flow into the watershed, causing issues for residents and local wildlife. Our children are endangered as trucks barrel down our country roads at high speeds that are not meant to support the volume and weight of such traffic all day and night. The worst part is we have no say in what is happening to us... Giving us the city of Golden, will allow us to take back control of our neighborhood and form a government that will represent our interests. This is what America is supposed to be. We are a nation of representative government and we should elect people from our area who care about what happens to us.”

Michael Ludwig, 6/18/21

“Golden is a friend of Miami County and Johnson County and will act in the best interest of the residents of our wonderful state and metropolitan area. It is clear that incorporating the Northwest part of Miami County is the only way to put Miami County residents in control of the future of the county.”

Theodore Beauchamp, 6/15/21

“I ask that you vote as the citizens voiced in Miami County's Comprehensive Plan preliminary results which showed that we overwhelmingly want to remain Rural, Rural-Residential & Agricultural in nature! Please be the Government which will not allow NorthPoint/Edgerton to leave us without a voice in our future, with broken hearts & dreams, with forever scarred landscapes & dramatically decreased property values! Be the Government which allows us to protect ourselves from the NorthPoint/Edgerton aggression that will destroy our dreams, our land & our Rural way of life.”

Lee Dye, 6/15/21

“Forming a city would allow us make development decisions ourselves through a city council that we elect and made up of our neighbors who share our interest. Even though having our farm be part of a city was my biggest childhood fear as an adult I decided to not get too hung up on the word and learn more about what it would actually mean. I found that there is no law saying that a city has to deny it's residents the ability to have livestock or to shoot guns. There's no law that requires a city has to hook all homes in its borders to sewers and not one shred of evidence that forming a city causes the neighbors you've lived by for years to become “stuck up city people” with the stroke of a pen. Once you get past the word, city, and all your own personal preconceived notions about it, it becomes clear that the attributes that we all associate with cities are simply the product of practicality rather than a requirement that comes with the designation.”

Charlie Koch, 6/15/21

“We are asking you to allow us to create our own city of Golden. More accurately, are asking you to give us the ability to protect ourselves; to decide what we think is right for our community and to not have a city government that lies 10 miles away continue to use us as their dumping ground. We are also asking you to give us the ability to serve as stewards of our shared water source and recreational area, Hillsdale Lake.”

Brent and Tiffany Smitheran, 6/18/21

“The great folks who have come together asking for your vote to allow a township to be formed have exhausted all options available to them except this... You have a chance to be the deciding factor in whether or not we allow those who chose a life of privacy and peace get to continue that way of life or lose it. These great patriots have sent messages, spoke at multiple city meetings, been respectful, and done what they could and still feel ignored. We look to you now as our local leaders and ask that you allow these folks the right they have fought so hard to receive.”

State Rep. Adam Thomas, 6/16/21

2. Incorporation is the only way to prevent annexation by Edgerton and expansion of Logistics Park/only way for residents to have a voice

“there is absolutely nothing you or the County can do to stop consent annexations, leaving the citizens in this area with no protection from the outside invasion; an invasion that is inevitable if you do not allow us to protect ourselves... Without this incorporation, you are leaving us in a vulnerable position where the future of our area and our investments are left in the hands of outsiders who do not represent us and who do not have our best interest at heart.”

Michael Ludwig, 5/18/21

“The majority of the families in the proposed limits of Golden are small land owners that will not have the opportunity to sell their property to the developer and would be left to live in an industrial waste land. These people will have to live with the truck traffic or sell their property for only the value of the land should they decide to relocate. Their homes and outbuildings have no value in an industrial setting which is made apparent by NorthPoint’s practice of burning down houses on the properties they’ve got their hands on in the past.”

Mary Koch, 6/1/21

“In my opinion the degradation to the Hillsdale conservation district is irreparable, the Edgerton/NorthPoint/BNSF tax incentive policy is obscene and the captains of industry are trampling the comprehensive plan that was in place in JoCo with no resistance. The same will be true in Miami county should Edgerton's expansion continue to the south.”

Charlotte O’Hara, 6/22/21

“With the recent annexations and rezonings being granted by the City of Edgerton to NorthPoint Development, we are watching our quiet country lifestyle disappear before our eyes. And all of this is being done in direct opposition to their own Comprehensive Plan, as well as the Southwest Johnson County Area Plan, which many of us relied on when we were choosing where to live... As Edgerton has demonstrated over the last 3 years, they have no desire to serve the residents of the areas they plan to develop. Therefore, it is crucial that you give us the opportunity to protect ourselves by forming a city that could at least provide some protection from their industrial development.”

Staci Cook, 6/17/21

“The formation of Golden is the most logical, practical, and economical way of protecting homeowner’s home and land values, county roads, the quality of the water in the Hillsdale water shed and many other valuable assets in Miami county... Let's keep what has happened and continue to happen in south Johnson county from happening in Miami county.”

Mark Hall, 6/18/21

“Though I know the idea of a new city is unconventional, I feel it is the best way to protect Miami county from an outside entity that does not have its best interests at heart. You, as a commissioner, have the very real advantage of watching this play out in southern Johnson county. You have seen the decimation of beautiful and valuable land and homes. You have seen the taxes rise for all the residents. You have seen the problem of roads and bridges being destroyed due to traffic from semis that were never designed to be there. You know who foots the bill for that—the county and the residents, not the developer... By voting yes to Golden, you actually give our county a chance at

having smart growth. Growth that's well-planned and benefits all concerned... We must have smart growth; growth that will benefit all of Miami county, not just a developer from Missouri."

Jennifer Whitlow, 6/16/21

"The goal of forming Golden is to give the residents of the area representation in development decisions in contrast to the current arrangement which leaves all decisions in the hands of NorthPoint/Edgerton who has proven on multiple occasions that they are happy to disregard residents entirely. The only thing that Golden could be seen as blocking is the southward expansion of the City of Edgerton. Golden would not prevent NorthPoint or any other developer from buying land in Miami County or in Golden and propose any development they'd like. The ONLY difference would be that they would have to work with Miami County or Golden to get the appropriate zoning and permits. Golden doesn't "stop" any possible development, it just gives the residents of the area representation in the process rather than leaving it to a city whose residence and city hall are located miles away."

Charlie Koch, 6/15/21

"The incorporation of Golden seems to be the only way to be represented by like minded individuals and to put a halt on the consent annexation currently taking place and threatening Miami County, Kansas. At the very least, have an elected member of one's choosing making decisions as to what will be developing next to your property. This is a highly unique situation with the consent annexation and the non-representation as to what is decided... By incorporating and having planned growth property rights can be maintain as well as the one's property value and desirability... It is not the sale of land, not in my back yard mentality or growth- industrial or residential- that is being opposed. It is how the growth is being pushed. Growth is good and inevitable. By incorporating, the city of Golden could decide on what type of growth is best and plan accordingly keeping property rights and citizen input intact."

Ed Reschke, 6/17/21

"I communicated with you several years ago about the growing number of semi tractors and trailers on Gardner Rd. I had hoped Miami County could have some control of this growing problem, but nothing changed other than it growing much worse. If forming a small town is the only way to help prevent Edgerton/NorthPoint from gobbling up more land into Miami County, then we are absolutely in support of doing just that."

John and Terry Dell, 5/24/21

3. Do not want to live in any city

"We all know that "rural" and "country" refer to areas outside city limits, therefore creating a city will forever irrevocably change the area. We also know that livestock really does not belong in the city limits. We do not need more restrictions than currently exist... We do not want to pay additional property taxes for no services other than "protection" from warehouses. We would like to close by saying that the petitioners contend that Edgerton and NorthPoint have done wrong. We believe that forcing anyone to be included in a city against their will (agricultural or not) is also wrong."

John DeGrande, 6/16/21

4. Miami County cannot prevent development from happening in the area/cannot prevent expansion of Logistics Park

“While the county commission may not possess the means to stop these tactics and, when the people also have virtually no say, vote or recourse, it would be a difficult argument to make for the county commission to actively prevent the good people of northern Miami County from doing the one and only thing legally accessible to make their voices heard and take control back from the corporate scheme seeking to industrialize northern Miami County.”

Paul Harrow, 6/1/21

“I thought we did our due diligence when we researched Miami County before we moved out here. We read the comprehensive plans, made phone calls to the county, talked to neighbors, and did everything we could do to make sure we were moving to a place where we could safely invest in our future... You can't imagine my disappointment to find out that Miami County cannot actually protect the rural and agricultural communities that their comprehensive plans seem to be so proud of. We did not come out here to live in the middle of a warehouse district.”

Brian Williams, 6/16/21

“I am a bit bothered by the fact that the county can't do anything to save us; however, when we decide to save ourselves – they are the one who get to decide whether we can save ourselves. However, we have voted for representatives in our county to represent our voice. One voice representing many people.”

Brian Williams, 6/16/21

“My hope is that this new city proposal is unanimously disapproved by the County Commissioners and that they shift gears immediately and find a way to restrict this type of development in the proposed area we are talking about and perhaps an expanded version of the map. The intermodal is not going anywhere and the developer has made it to 215th. Nothing we can do about that. We need to maintain all current County services (that we have helped pay for), address truck traffic and roadway improvements so safety can be maintained. It appears we all want the same end result. The best way to achieve it is not by starting another city.”

Ken Butler, 6/15/21

5. Cost of Golden/proposed Golden is not viable due to size, population/cost of operating a city exceeds what proponents estimate

“We are now concerned that the proposal to form a new city was done in haste. We urge the commissioners to require a feasibility study from the petitioner to address the matter of funding fire protection, emergency medical, and law enforcement services. The petitioner made a blanket statement that services would not change. We now question the validity of that statement and would like to know the actual projected cost and specific source of the funds. We would welcome hearing any alternative solutions the commissioners may have that would protect our land values and rural setting. We are not against “appropriate new development,” just against the spread of massive warehouses looming over the countryside we love.”

Stan and Gail Brower, 6/18/21

“We feel this group is trying to bully their agenda because they didn’t get their way in stopping the warehouses in Johnson County, in our opinion, that isn’t a valid reason to form a city. We believe this group has not done their due diligence and at the end of the day, even with the best of intentions you still need to bring a feasibility study to the table and an accurate cost analysis of what it will take to operate this city, ...our farm was one of the last properties purchased by North Point in phase one. We lived through the building of warehouses all around us, lights in the windows, roads being built and our neighbors moving on, so while we can certainly empathize with the people trying to block the warehousing, we also feel their fears are unjustified, North Point was and has been a good neighbor. If you take the time to actually look at the home values and real estate market in Gardner/Edgerton, the intermodal has in no way hurt the value in these areas, realtors can’t find homes to meet customer demands.”

Earl and Jill Allen, 6/18/21

“...we need to give all of the people in the area that is being requested some real figures of the costs and what the future responsibilities would be. Then I think you would find a different outcome of numbers that look to be in support of this... Again, I am sure that the intentions are well meant by all that are trying to stop the warehouse growth from coming into our county. I am not thrilled about all the extra traffic, road wear and tear, noise, and other issues that come with it. But, I am not fully convinced that this is the right avenue to take to prevent more of it and if it for sure will.”

Chris Cygan, 6/18/24

“For services: fire, police, water, electricity, and sewer will all stay the same. Main roads will continue to be maintained by the county, and we may have to contract to maintain gravel roads. A minimal tax will be imposed which will be more than enough to take care of this. As a newly formed government, we will of course reserve the right to vote and change any of this, but that will be for us to decide based on need.”

Michael Ludwig, 6/18/21

6. Incorporation will preserve the County’s tax base/annexation will harm it

“Unfortunately, through no fault of the petitioners for Golden nor Miami County, it has come down to this: a vote AGAINST Golden incorporation is a vote FOR uncontrolled, unchecked industrialization of northern Miami County against the will of the residents or the county (since the commissioners do not have a say in the matter once the dealing starts). If we want the people to leave, and northern Miami County to become a wasteland of warehouses and truck traffic because there might be some future tax money to be had, well, then I guess it wouldn’t make sense to allow Golden to incorporate. But if we want people to stay, and new people to move to the area and build and live and develop appropriately and respectfully, then Golden will have a chance to deliver beauty, desirability, development and taxes that warehouses and semi-trucks never, ever will.”

Paul Harrow, 6/1/21

“Not only would warehouse development not provide tax revenue to the county, it would destroy property values in an area that is currently providing above average tax revenue... it would be better to preserve the area’s appeal for large lot residential. That type of development yields a higher price per acre than selling to NorthPoint/Edgerton, homes don’t get 100% tax abatements, and it would not destroy the counties existing tax base.”

Mary Koch, 6/1/21

“Golden does not want to negatively impact Miami County. Golden has not yet produced a comprehensive plan. If the City of Golden decides that industrial development is appropriate somewhere inside the city limits, then the City will have the opportunity to negotiate a deal that benefits Miami County instead of the county being at the mercy of another city that does not have Miami County’s best interest in mind. Further, I haven’t spoken to one person that does not welcome further residential development in this area of the county... The incorporation of Golden will allow new residents to build in this area with the reassurance that they will always have a voice in the City’s development. This likely increase in residential development will immediately increase revenues to Miami County without adding any significant cost to infrastructure maintenance or improvements.”

Theodore Beauchamp, 6/15/21

“Based upon history of land values in incorporating territories, there is a strong potential for the increase in property values over time if this formation comes to fruition. People will continue to move into Miami County by nature of the Metro area expansion with the NW corner being a strong candidate for good development opportunities and increased revenue to the City and County.”

Jerot and Tonya Pearson, 6/18/21

“My husband and I had planned for our home to be part of our legacy to our children when we leave this world. If our property value, de-values due to the warehouses coming into the area, there won't be much for us to leave behind to our children. If our property values decline the less property tax we will have to pay. Please help us preserve our values and way of life.”

Cathy Mitchell, 6/17/21

7. Incorporation will protect property values/industrialization will decrease property values

“I am sure you consider your home a part of your monetary value. Imagine if a large warehouse is put up within a mile or two of your homes. Your home will immediately have no value; only your acreage.”

Chuck and Charlene Soetaert, 6/18/21

“Industrialization versus incorporation is pitting corporate greed against innocent citizens who are simply living their lives. The argument for the path forward is not “we need unsolicited, North Point warehouses and truck traffic to increase our tax base no matter the cost”. The argument is: “we need people”. We need a desirable landscape, houses and environments where people want to live. Where desirable development happens that enhances the lives of the people nearby and is respectful and suitable to the area. No one in Golden is against development across the board. But driving warehouses up I-35 is different that shoving an industrial park down the throats of rural

residents and landowners because there happened to be a relatively unknown technicality that has empowered one small town to inflict it's will upon the surrounding communities with impunity and indifference."

Paul Harrow, 6/1/21

"Any future warehouse development that would occur in the area would be facilitated by the City of Edgerton who grants 100% tax abatements... The payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT payments) that the warehouses do pay are contractually bound to reimburse the developer for the cost of building infrastructure directly within the warehouse district... If warehouse development is allowed in Miami County, the current residents of the county will be left to pay for the destroyed roads. Residential properties that are anywhere remotely close to warehouses will drastically decrease in value."

Dennis Koch, 6/1/21

"Smaller properties surrounding the current warehouses have been surrounded by huge buildings roads and semi traffic. Many have had their properties on the market for years with no success. These people will be forced to either live in an industrial zone or sell their home for land value, completely forfeiting the investment they have in their homes and out buildings. The purpose of Golden is not to deny all development, it's to ensure that future development doesn't destroy what's already here."

Dennis Koch, 6/1/21

"I have saved my entire life to build my family their dream home which is currently under construction. With the formation of Golden, KS I feel that my property value would have better chances of increasing. Being that a home is the most significant financial transaction that most families make I need to do what I think is best to protect that investment."

Zach Bader, 6/18/21

"I own 2 industrial buildings in Olathe... and I'm paying \$2.00 a square ft. in property taxes. NorthPoint's buildings are paying 16 cents per sq ft and frozen for 10 years."

Charlotte O'Hara, 6/22/21

"...if our petition is denied and Edgerton is allowed to annex into Miami County, our property values are going to plummet and the onslaught of appeals of real estate taxes will begin."

Tim Dye, 6/18/21

"The majority of the proposed area is composed of well-cared for homes, acreage, and small farms; which is exactly what so many buyers are looking for—their own little piece of paradise. Those values will continue to rise and so will the tax revenues, as long as people feel secure in what they're purchasing. However, if you vote no against Golden incorporating, you will have no power to stop NorthPoint from purchasing land, requesting annexation into Edgerton... Suddenly, existing homes on small acreage that would have been so desirable become less attractive and are therefore devalued... An overwhelming majority of northern Miami county residents have responded that they do not want warehouses randomly surrounding their homes. I truly hope you

are listening... We are asking you to allow us to have a voice, to have actual representation, in what develops around us.”

Jennifer Whitlow, 6/16/21

“I have spent an inordinate amount of time reviewing Edgerton’s agreements with NorthPoint Development, their financial statements, and various other documents to understand how one-sided the deal is that they have signed... the benefit the City sees is only on paper. In reality, the vast majority of the revenues the City receives flow right back to NorthPoint Development.”

Theodore Beauchamp, 6/15/21

“It’s funny that so many people still think that the NorthPoint/Edgerton warehouse development is a good source of tax revenue. I’ve read the Development Agreements, Public Infrastructure Finance Agreements, IRB Ordinances and many other documents and I can tell you with confidence that those warehouses are not going to provide tax revenue to the county for a very long time, if ever.”

Charlie Koch, 6/15/21

8. Miami County is able to protect its residents

“I know of too many places where “not in my backyard” activists have squelched development for the longer term detriment of their communities... I expect the area will continue to see considerable population growth and residential development regardless what happens with the Golden petition... It’s a blessing to be in an area with good prospects for growth, development and prosperity, and planning to guide the growth. Miami county seems to be on the right track without another municipality in the mix.”

Jerry Heath, 6/7/21

“Any system that is held hostage by Edgerton/NorthPoint tactics is broken. The proposed establishment of a city attests to desperate measures that your constituencies are forced to pursue and has unfortunately placed area landowners at odds. State statute places you in the position of authority on the matter of approval or denial of the proposed city. The large majority of landowners in northwest Miami County simply do not want the encroachment. Help us to help you arrive at a creative solution.”

William Osborn, 6/25/21

“In the Commissions’ letter to the stakeholders concerning the upcoming hearing, I found one item to be quite important - the possibility of another remedy that can address valid concerns without the creation of a new City. Land use is currently the purview of the Miami County Commission in the area and it is my hope that there can be a solution found to manage growth without the creation of Golden. It is my belief that the creation of a City and all of the elements of bureaucracy that will accompany it in the beginning and in perpetuity will unfairly burden those inside the boundaries of its creation. This may not be apparent to those in favor of Golden.”

Ted and Kathryn McAnany, 6/22/21

9. Will move unless area is incorporated

“We do not want to leave our home, but we also do not want to live in the middle of a bunch of warehouses and have a parade of trucks driving by our house all day and all night. Unfortunately, the cloud of doubt cast by the rapid encroachment of Edgerton, bringing warehouses with it, has created enough uncertainty surrounding our area to plummet the value of our home. Moving would forfeit the equity we have built up in our home. We feel trapped. Our only option left is to unite with our neighbors and form our own municipality so that we can choose how our area is to be used.”

Brent and Tiffany Smitheran, 6/18/21

“If Golden is not incorporated there is a very large risk of ruining that way of life and that dream for all of its residents. As a young family who plans on raising our children and spending our lives in Miami County, the potential nearby Warehouse Development is very concerning and makes us pause on our future plans in Miami County. Increased semi traffic, depreciating land value, and industrialization of the local rural landscape is not likely to bring families such as ours to what was supposed to be a peaceful area. ...we hope you strongly consider allowing Golden to be incorporated to allow us to fulfill our long term goal of settling in rural, northern Miami County.”

Jason and Whitney Roskam, 6/16/21

10. Effects of development on Hillsdale Lake

“It is of utmost importance to evaluate the toxic runoff that will likely occur in the Hillsdale Lake Watershed. Hillsdale Lake is the main water source for Miami County. We need clean, fresh, and healthy water!”

Linda Johnston, 6/18/21

“If any of you could convince me that 600 acres of warehouses, concrete parking and dock areas are more environmentally friendly than 600 acres of pasture, row crops and trees I would have to take a serious examination of my common sense! A vote against Golden would be the single most irresponsible action you could take for Hillsdale Lake because, face it, a vote AGAINST Golden is a vote FOR warehouses.”

Tim Dye, 6/18/21

“What is an industrial complex project doing in a multi county watershed supply location? Who in their right mind would approve, plan, and support any such proposals that would put it at risk? Why are Warehouses not located along I-35 state where they belong? ... How many cities depend on the Hillsdale watershed as their sole source for water? How many drainage creeks running across the proposed Golden city boundaries provide Hillsdale lake with replenishable runoff water would be destroyed by Warehouse rezoning? ... Have there been any pollution studies of the effects of warehousing and semi-tractor trailer traffic basically doing what they want, when they want, how they want? ... The greatest danger to Miami County and the counties nearby is the loss of water supply provided by Hillsdale lake due to any so called land redevelopment projects that would either completely destroy or disrupt drainage supplies to the Hillsdale lake.”

Robert Tapp, 6/16/21

“The area wildlife will be at risk with the increased air and noise pollution as well as the physical risk of high truck traffic in the area. We also have to consider how the millions of square feet of concrete and asphalt will be interrupting and polluting ground water sources flowing into Hillsdale lake and affecting the water quality for our citizens as well as the “best fishing lake in Kansas.””

Tim and Mitzie Eddins, 6/17/21

“The supporters of "Golden" are also committed to protecting the lake's watershed area by keeping it "rural". This will allow rainwater to soak into the soil and be filtered naturally on its way to the lake. If this portion of northern Miami County is procured by the warehouse promoters the majority of the land will eventually be covered with huge buildings and concrete. This will allow unrestricted run-off, and flash flooding as the rainwater carries diesel fuel, oils, and other lubricants, as well as rubber particles, etc. into the lake.”

Carl and Pat Peer, 6/16/21

“Things change and times change and we understand that but at what cost? We are adamantly opposed to the continued warehouse propagation that has become so prevalent in southern Johnson County. We desire to not only protect the rural setting for ourselves and our neighbors but there would also be a significant environmental impact to Hillsdale Watershed areas and Hillsdale Lake if more warehouses from North Point LLC's progression southward are allowed. I worked as an environmental engineer in the 1990s and if an environmental assessment of the effect of storm water runoff from the roofing surface of even one 1,000,000 square foot building and the surrounding pavement associated with the building is performed, the volume of water and particulates as well as other surface pollutants calculated would certainly impact Hillsdale Lake tributaries and hence, Hillsdale Lake.”

Doug and Sharon Rethmeyer, 6/15/21

“...we are concerned about the greater good and the protection of the main water source in our area, Hillsdale Lake... We worry about the increased runoff from multiple 1,000,000 square foot warehouse roofs and surrounding parking lots sweeping more debris into our lake. We are concerned about the increased pollution coming from all of the trucks. We worry that the surrounding communities will eventually lose their clean source of water. They, like us, are currently powerless to stop the industrial growth in an area that will jeopardize all of our water.”

Brent and Tiffany Smitheran, 6/18/21

“At the public hearing, the Miami County Conservation District indicated that impervious ground cover is now at threshold. Our watershed is at stake. My 3rd generation family farm borders the property of the Hillsdale Lake. Anecdotally, I can attest that the two feeder streams that intersect my property have undergone increased stream bank erosion thus far and will only worsen as additional warehouses and resultant infrastructure are built. I have purposely used practices to help protect the lake including rotational grazing and riparian fencing. At what point will my efforts and my neighbors' efforts pale in comparison to the impact of the commercial development creating a spiraling degradation of the watershed?”

William Osborn, 6/25/21

11. Adequacy of area roads/truck traffic

“We witness Semi trailer trucks pass our home several times each day with disregard to the speed limit and the condition of the roads which cannot possibly support their weight. There are some areas where the road is so narrow only one car can pass at a time.”

Sandy and Allen Corder, 5/19/21

“I am extremely concerned that it is only a matter of time before there is a fatality accident. There is a small hill near my home, and it is beginning to be dangerous just pulling out of my drive. People park on the roads near the lake to fish and walk the bridge area and with semi's speeding past it is truly a matter of time before a person is hit or a car/semi accident... I have lived on Harmony since 1993 when it was gravel and now wish it still were. There were never any speed limit signs posted until approx 2 years ago, which is 55 miles, which seems fast for a chip and seal road. On Gardner Rd in Jo Co the speed limit is 45. These semis are traveling much faster than 55. If you won't stop the semis, Please at least re-evaluate and lower the speed limit to 45 and ticket the semis for driving too fast.”

Linda Johnston, 5/25/21

“I have encountered large semi-trucks using Gardner road to access the Kubota and the Hostess warehouses on 207th west of Gardner road... The city of Edgerton and Johnson County has done nothing to improve Gardner road south of I-35 highway since the Kubota and Hostess warehouses were built. Gardner Road is a narrow 2 lane road, no shoulders and has deep ditches on the side in some parts. Many times, the truck traffic has almost run people off the road due to their size.”

Joyce Ghaisarnia, 6/18/21

“We are already experiencing changes for the worse decided by the corporations. Chief among these is increased heavy truck traffic, and the associated damage of the roadways including 223rd Street. The heavy truck traffic already makes up a significant percentage of traffic on this road during the day. A heavy truck going 55 miles per hour on a two-lane road with no shoulders is a recipe for disaster and destruction. I shudder to think what even more traffic will do to the roadways and the surrounding Hillsdale watershed.”

Tricia Chitwood, 6/18/21

“Semi-truck and trailers are driving on back country roads at high rates of speed and endangering lives... It will be my taxes increased to pay for road and bridge repairs, unlike big corporations that get a tax abatement. Why is the speed limit on Harmony Rd 55 mph and not 45 mph?”

Linda Johnston, 6/18/21

“The dramatic increase in container/trailer truck traffic and the speed in which they drive on these narrow two lane county roads with no shoulders makes it more and more dangerous for local car traffic. The damage to our roads and the financial implications for the county is a very real issue.”

Mark Hall, 6/18/21

“Another concern I have for the county is the additional costs to the county for infrastructure. As a resident who must drive Gardner Road every day to get to our home off of 217th Street, I can attest to the hundreds of semi-trucks that are driving roads that were not built for them. Many are not

using the expensive Homestead exit because their GPS takes them down Gardner Rd. It is so dangerous to even drive home.”

Jennifer Whitlow, 6/16/21

“The master plan for the intermodal was never supposed to be south of I-35. Why Edgerton and NorthPoint believes it is appropriate to have jumped south of I-35 and head east into heavily rural residential populated areas is unthinkable. It makes no sense; the infrastructure of two lane gravel and paved roads were never designed for semi-truck traffic... The two lane, residential roadways of 199th, 115th and 223rd streets are now primary paths to the intermodal vs. truckers staying on 169 north to I-35 then south to the multimillion dollar interchange of Homestead Lane, which is the quickest and safest intermodal access. Approval of Golden City will be a strong direction and message to intermodal traffic to use the roadways which were built for intermodal traffic. Traffic hazards would be reduced significantly, especially for children traveling on busses during the school year heading to and from Nike Elementary School on Gardner Road.”

Frank Bannister, 6/22/21

12. Golden is proposed for just one reason: to prevent annexation by Edgerton

“Like all my neighbors, We didn’t move to the country to live in a “city,” but we’d rather be in Golden than in the middle of warehouses. If Edgerton wants warehouses, let them build them in their own back yard on the north side of I-35!”

Tim and Mitzie Eddins, 6/17/21

“As a resident of northern Miami County, I would like to communicate my strong support for incorporating as Golden Kansas. I cannot express enough how important this issue has become for all who live in this area. Many of us moved to this area to avoid some of the city based restrictions, but when threatened with warehouses/industrial sites, we are banding together to fight for what is right.”

Karen Boydston, 6/16/21

13. Property rights

“By forming our own city, with elected officials from our borders elected by us, we are being given the opportunity to exercise and protect our property rights. Without this incorporation, our future of our area and our investments are left in the hands of outsiders who do not represent us and do not have our best interest at heart.”

Kathy Reschke, 6/17/21

“Golden is protecting the rights of real farmers. A real farmer understands the importance of the land, the watershed, and the scarcity of rural living and our natural resources... They love the land. They are the backbone of America and are good people and good citizens who respect their neighbors... A real farmer lives on his land, farms it, gives back to the land, and works in unity with his community.”

Brian Williams, 6/16/21

“I am not against growth and development but I do believe constituents should have a voice in the way property is zoned and what is happening in their community. Why else would there be zoning notices if constituents weren’t to have a say? There will be no rights for us small landowners in our neighborhoods if Edgerton is in Miami County.”

Jessica Pecenka, 6/18/21