

Jennifer Rivera (Administration)

From: Alden Woodside [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2026 12:34 PM
To: Jennifer Rivera (Administration)
Cc: Alden Woodside
Subject: (A) 5773 & 5769 Conner Road | Special Use and (B) 5773 & 5769 Conner Road | Variance to section 7.7.3

Categories: HOLD

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Alden Woodside
5786 Conner Road
Flowery Branch, GA 30542

[REDACTED]
1-15-26

Hall County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Drawer 1435
Gainesville, GA 30503

Dear Members of the Hall County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing as a resident of Hall County to strongly oppose the special use permit and variance request for the proposed Flowery Branch Winery. While I appreciate efforts to support local businesses, I have serious concerns about the impact this project would have on our community's character, safety, and quality of life.

The proposed permit and variance raises multiple issues, including significantly increased traffic and frankly danger on an exceedingly narrow and frankly hazardous road. To be clear, Conner Road, the road granting access to the Applicant's property is already narrow. Two cars have difficulty passing each other under current conditions. Further, there is a personal care home at the end of the road, and emergency vehicles are frequently seen going to and from that property. Allowing numerous events on the Applicant's property will only exacerbate these problems and create an even more unsafe environment. Indeed, the Applicant has hosted several events on-site in the past, and cars parked on the lawn using a blind hill for access, providing a safety concern for drivers and an eyesore for nearby property owners. Granting the special use permit will only increase the hazards already faced by area residents. The added traffic would endanger pedestrians, cyclists, and children who frequently use Conner Road which is notably without a sidewalk on the bulk of the road.

The Board has ample grounds to deny the project for these reasons alone. It is unclear if the road's width currently meets standard safety requirements imposed by the International Fire Code as adopted by Hall County. At the very least, if the Applicant seeks to increase motor vehicle traffic

along the existing, narrow road, the Applicant should be required to widen it—at the Applicant's cost. Notably, a similar request was made by the Applicant in 2017 and was denied for these same reasons.

In addition to the objective safety risks associated with granting a special use permit, it is important to consider the exacerbation of noise pollution from ongoing events and gatherings. While we acknowledge that the Applicant is currently prohibited from using amplified sound outdoors, our observations suggest otherwise. We have documented instances, including videos of amplified music being played and images of unauthorized festivals that were held without permission. The Applicant has consistently disregarded existing regulations; thus, one must question what would prevent them from hosting events attracting 200 vehicles with loud music extending past midnight if a special use permit is granted.

Allowing this special use permit would significantly impact the quality of life for surrounding neighbors and likely lead to decreased property values. We urge you to consider these implications carefully.

Equally concerning is the change in land use that this permit and variance would enable. An event venue is fundamentally incompatible with the surrounding residential and rural environment. Granting these exceptions would set a troubling precedent that undermines existing zoning protections designed to preserve the tranquility and safety of our neighborhood.

I urge the Board to protect the interests of residents by denying the special use permit and variance request for the Flowery Branch Winery. Our community deserves thoughtful, responsible development that aligns with the area's zoning, safety, and public welfare standards.

Jennifer Woodside will be testifying on my behalf.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the residents of Hall County.

Sincerely,
Alden Woodside