

**Leon  
Daugherty**  
**County Commission**  
**8<sup>th</sup> District, Seat A**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**DAUGHERTY ANNOUNCES OPPOSITION  
TO PROPOSED MIDWAY BUSINESS PARK**

**TO: ALL MEDIA OUTLETS**  
**FROM: Daugherty for County Commission**  
**DATE: October 13, 2008**

8<sup>th</sup> District County Commission candidate Leon Daugherty today released a public statement in opposition to the proposed Midway Business Park in East Knox County. The proposed business park is located on approximately 380 acres in the northeast quadrant of Knox County off of I-40 in the Midway Road – Thorngrove Pike area. The land is within the 8<sup>th</sup> County Commission District, which Daugherty seeks to represent. In his statement, Daugherty said, “It is clear from my conversations with area residents and from the research that I’ve conducted into this issue over the past few months that there is exceedingly strong opposition to the business park by neighboring residents. This is a quiet rural area, with extremely light traffic, and minimal artificial noise. The bottom line is that residents simply do not want the drastic lifestyle change that would follow development of a business or industrial park, including the increased traffic and noise, not to mention upsetting the natural beauty of this area.”

But that reason is one of many reasons for opposing the business-industrial park, says Daugherty. “I’m also unconvinced that this is the best use of this land,” citing the apparent failure of The Development Corporation of Knox County to adhere to the East Knox Sector Plan. “It appears fairly clear to me that the business park was poorly planned and even more poorly explained to the public, with the promise of 4,600 jobs and numerous unnamed businesses, all of which - in view of our current economic climate – now appear to be pure fiction.”

Daugherty further noted in his statement that residents have filed suit in Chancery Court to stop the business park, alleging, among other things, that more than a dozen Commissioners violated the Sunshine Law in June 2006 by meeting and discussing the park with a realtor group in private. In June 2008, the Chancellor presiding over the suit pressed an attorney representing the county and the Metropolitan Planning Commission to identify what had changed between the adoption of a sector plan in 2000 and the amendment of the plan in 2006.

In addition to the opposition by neighboring residents and incongruity of the plan, Daugherty observed that “a significant factor in planning for the business park is determining how the wastewater will be handled.” Daugherty says that “the residents are rightly upset about the prospect

of a water treatment facility on the French Broad River, fearing that such a facility would pollute the river and give way to still more development. As it stands, the low population density of the area simply does not require a treatment facility.”

Finally, according to Daugherty, “there has been no demonstration whatsoever that Knox County needs additional business or industrial space to serve the county’s needs. In fact, it appears that in the current economic climate, the last thing we need is to develop a business park, destroying the natural beauty of the land in the process, and then be unable secure businesses to locate there.”

Daugherty says his opposition to the proposed Midway Business Park does not mean that he opposes development of such a park anywhere in Knox County. “To the contrary, I would certainly favor a reasonable development in Knox County at a more appropriate site, based on need and following a well-considered review and the lack of serious public opposition.