

January 8, 2025

Escambia County Board of County Commissioners 221 Palafox Place Pensacola, Florida 32502

Commissioners.

The Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors continues to follow discussions surrounding the future of OLF-8. Our economic development committee just met to consider alternatives on a way to proceed. Regardless of which developer you prefer.

The DPZ Master Plan calls for significant job creation at OLF-8. We continue to ask that the portion zoned for light industrial should **remain publicly-owned** to ensure quality job creation for our citizens. And our County should retain the acreage needed for the main access road and its associated utilities.

One approach to accomplish these objectives would be to contract with one developer but delay conveying the industrial zoned land until after the funded improvements are complete.

Continued County ownership gives PEDC the opportunity to finalize its pending \$14 million Triumph infrastructure grant, and economic developers believe that \$14 million could grow to \$30 million in outside grants as we put more new jobs at OLF-8 over time.

OLF-8 remains one of the best undeveloped areas in Escambia County that can be utilized as a site for quality jobs. Just add the roads and utilities, and we have the "shovel ready" lots available that Site Selectors tell us that their clients want to bring jobs to.

On behalf of the 1100 chamber members, we respectfully ask that you follow the DPZ Master Plan and retain public ownership of the light industrial land that supports job creation. This will grow our economy, increase county revenues, and provide quality jobs for our citizens.

Sincerely,

David Deliman, Chairman

Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors