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From: Kathy Burrows [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 11:57 AM

To: John Jay <jjay@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Cc: Victoria Henkel <vhenkel@cityofsebastopol.gov>; City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Subject: Public Comment: Proposed Grocery Outlet at the Former Rite Aid Site

I have lived in Sebastopol for 50 years. I owned Rays Trading Company which after 39 years is still in existence.

As a longtime resident of our community, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal for a grocery outlet to be established in the heart of our town.

Our quaint community is characterized by a unique charm, local businesses and a strong sense of identity. The introduction of a large box store threatens to undermine the very essence of what makes our town special. Such an establishment would not only clash with our local aesthetics, but also dilute the individuality that our residence and visitors cherish.

In addition to the detrimental impact on our town character, I am deeply concerned about the potential traffic nightmare that grocery outlet would bring. The increase in vehicle, congestion, particularly in already busy downtown area poses significant safety risk for our pedestrians and cyclists. It could lead to frustrating delays for residence and detour visitors who come to enjoy our local shops and restaurants.

We must consider the economic implications of inviting a large corporate entity into our community. Supporting local businesses is vital for maintaining our towns, economic health, and ensuring that our neighbors thrive. A grocery outlet may offer convenience, but it will inevitably take away from the unique shopping experiences that our local merchants provide.

I urge the council to reconsider this proposal and prioritize the vision of our town that has been cultivated over many years. Let us protect our communities character and support the local businesses that contribute to our vibrant atmosphere.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I hope we can work together to preserve the integrity and charm of our town for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Katherine Burrows
[REDACTED]