

**Testimony at Chatham County Board of Commissioners Public Hearing on Ferrington  
Preserve Congruus CCO Map Amendment—August 16, 2021**

I am Catherine Washburn and live at 2081 Great Ridge Parkway, in Briar Chapel. I am here as a Board Member and Treasurer representing the Board of Directors of the Briar Chapel Community Association and on behalf of our community. I have Jennifer Drake, Vice President of the Board, with me. I am here to express our concern over a suggestion in the “Utilities and Public Services” section of the JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE COMPACT COMMUNITIES ORDINANCE by Congruus LLC, that the Briar Chapel wastewater treatment plant may be part of a “regional sanitary sewer solution”. Our sole objective is to caution Congruus LLC and the Chatham County Board of Commissioners that the Briar Chapel Community Association is strongly opposed to any suggestion that wastewater from any development outside the current boundaries of Briar Chapel be treated within Briar Chapel.

BCCA and its members have been deeply engaged in efforts to improve the wastewater services provided to our community by Old North State Water Company (ONSWC). BCCA’s current collaborative efforts with ONSWC and the developer of Briar Chapel, NNP-Briar Chapel, resulted from an agreement among the three parties as spelled out in the Binding Tri-Party Agreement, signed October 19, 2020 and shared with the Board of Commissioners. The Agreement accomplished several things, including the elimination of an effort to make the Briar Chapel plant a regional wastewater treatment facility through a four-fold expansion of the capacity and by bringing wastewater from Ferrington Village and other developments to Briar Chapel for treatment. It also set up a Tri-Party Council, made up of senior officials of the utility, developer, and members of the BCCA Board of Directors to keep the parties informed of the plans and concerns of the other parties and to provide a forum for discussion of issues and joint efforts to make progress on our mutual goals.

The arguments that BCCA made against regionalization in 2020 are the same now as then. The Briar Chapel plant is located in the heart of a densely populated residential community. It shouldn’t have been located there, but it was, and we’re doing our best to eliminate the spills and odors associated with its location and operation. The Tri-Party Agreement allowed us to work together with the utility and the developer toward fixing what was wrong, as well as upgrading the plant and expanding its capacity to be sufficient for Briar Chapel’s needs. We are cautiously optimistic that the causes of the spills have been corrected and that new odor mitigation measures will result in a better living experience for our residents.

What we don’t want are any further proposals to bring wastewater from other locations, contiguous or not, to Briar Chapel. We’ve suffered enough. But, we are making progress on solving our problems ourselves and we will vigorously oppose any efforts to add any other development’s waste water to our already problematic facility.