

## Monkey Breeding Facility Threatens SW Ga and N. Fla Citizens, Environment, and Wildlife Health

Dear Dist. Dir. Myler: I am writing so that you may be aware of and have involvement in stopping the proposed macaque-breeding facility in my hometown of Bainbridge in S.W. Georgia. "Project Liberty" causes concerns because the volume of bio-hazardous wastes that would be generated is enormous from over 30,000 animals; groundwater contamination is a huge concern; chemical releases from incineration of dead carcasses and habitat/lab wastes are known public-health hazards; and that hazardous landfill materials are a big concern. We are worry about the possible chemical and biological impacts to the health of our region's citizens, and to our air, groundwater (aka a huge underground aquafer), the Flint River, soil, as well as livestock and farming operations.

Our area is a major source for agricultural irrigation and crop production, and we also have significant livestock populations that rely on clean groundwater, as well as pasturelands uncontaminated by bioaccumulating chemicals released by the sort of incinerators that might be sited at this facility. Private wells for potable water are also located throughout the area, and are primary sources for many families, homes, and farming operations. Any point-source soil/groundwater contamination from such a facility could be potentially dragged downgradient for miles, in several directions, owing to the large seasonal agricultural withdrawals of groundwater in the area. We are also very worried about interspecies virus transfers to human populations, and we reside in a hurricane- and tornado-prone area that would seriously challenge the company's ability to safely confine 30,000 such animals during storm events. The proposed build site was flooded by the Flint River twice (1994 and 1996) where much of the town and county suffered damage. This large river runs less than one half mile from the proposed site. Downstream from there the river runs directly through Bainbridge, enters Lake Seminole and as you know, into the Panhandle of Florida where becomes the Apalachicola River which goes into the Gulf of Mexico. Because of this, many citizens in North Florida are opposed also.

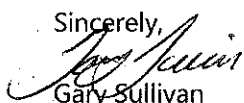
Our concern is well beyond just bad optics for a tight-knit community that has only very recently remade itself, bringing in new businesses, hotels, restaurants, a renewal of tourism, entertainment, and sportsmen to the area. We are genuinely concerned for the health and safety of our community, our natural resources, and our natural environment. Irreversible damage is possible. I still have friends and family in Bainbridge.

We would greatly appreciate an investigation into this serious matter. I refer you to the Facebook community forum, "No Monkey Breeding Bainbridge, GA!" that has almost five thousand members. According to that Facebook group the company is Safer Human Medicine which was newly formed in February 2023 and was incorporated in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts, and that the leaders, including Jim Harkness, are former executives from Envigo, Charles River, and Covance. Many have Concerns about past practices.

A large population of local citizens are attending local city council and county commissioner meetings to press our local elected officials to back out of this agreement which was passed without local citizen awareness or review.

Thank you for your time and attention. We would greatly appreciate your help in this timely matter.

Sincerely,



Gary Sullivan

28 Alta Mont Court

Dahlonega, GA 30533 [Garysull614@yahoo.com](mailto:Garysull614@yahoo.com)

