

Good People,

On Thursday, January 8, 2026, we attended a Planning Commission hearing for our new range project. Planning and Zoning staff recommended denying our Special Use Permit. They based the denial primarily on resident opposition, which I completely understand and sympathize with. In my estimation, residents expressed their biggest concerns about noise, safety (errant rounds), and traffic. Some also voiced worries about danger to cattle and PTSD triggers, which I believe aimed to enhance their arguments more than anything.

Of course, no one wants a loud range in their area. So, we have planned robust contingencies to mitigate effects on the immediate community.

Safety:

We will build 20-foot-high impact berms to contain errant rounds. Direction of fire is restricted to north and west. We will enforce stringent SOPs through professional range management, a mandatory member Range Safety and SOP course, and dedicated Range Safety Officer presence to reduce negligent discharge risks. The land in question is currently on hunting lease. With this, the nearby homes face a much higher probability of getting stray rounds even though the volume of firing is less. The complainant that expressed concern for his cattle faces an exponentially higher likelihood of accidental cattle injury by a hunter. Hunters are not bound by shooting direction and certainly have no protective berms.

Noise:

Considering these valid concerns, we have chosen to construct an 8-foot sound mitigation fence atop the east, west, and south perimeter berms for a total 28-foot-high barrier. This setup will deflect noise north, where the nearest residence sits about 2,000 yards away with over 1,000 yards of dense woodland in between.

Traffic:

Though we hope to attract good business, we expect minimal traffic (5-15 vehicles) throughout the week and concentrated traffic (30-40 vehicles) only during major competitions. Neighbors, in somewhat of a contradiction, expressed a desire for future subdivisions in Morton Bend, which I believe would increase vehicle traffic by hundreds, not dozens.

“Good Neighbor” Initiative:

In addition to physical structures for risk mitigation, we have offered good-faith efforts to honor the Morton Bend neighborhood. These efforts include a monthly clean-up day, where

SILO/OSS employees and volunteers will clean the road from one end of Morton Bend to the other. This matters significantly, as much trash currently litters the southern intersection of Morton Bend and Hwy 100. Discarded tires also pose a common problem in this area, along with trash that less responsible hunters leave behind. Additionally, we have offered a free quarterly neighborhood range day exclusively for Morton Bend residents, featuring varied shooting and archery activities for all ages and a cookout. Furthermore, we have offered free lifetime family memberships to Morton Bend locals as an added incentive, a \$34K value, again not insignificant. Each complainant expressed deep support for the Second Amendment, professed avid lifelong marksmen, and acknowledged the goodness of the plan, just “not in our neighborhood.” On that note, one complainant proudly boasted victory in blocking previous business attempts in their neighborhood, including a hot yoga glamping effort (which doesn't get more peaceful than that).

My ask to you, our followers, and supporters, especially those of you who live in Floyd County, is to write letters to Floyd County Planning (Brice Wood) and the County Commissioners to voice your support. Our County Hearing occurs on January 27, 2026.

Emails:

BWood@romeiga.us – Brice Wood (Planning Commission)

David.thornton@floydcountyga.org – David Thornton (County Commissioner)

Mike.burnes@floydcountyga.org – Mike Burnes (County Commissioner)

Scotty.hancock@floydcountyga.org – Scotty Hancock (County Commissioner)

Rhonda.wallace@floydcountyga.org – Rhonda Wallace (County Commissioner)

Allison.watters@floydcountyga.org – Allison Watters (Chair, County Commissioner)

Topics may include:

Our community outreach efforts. We aim to host charity fundraisers with local partners such as Habitat for Humanity, Boy Scouts, and other organizations, churches, and non-profits that operate in and for Floyd County. We aim to address issues such as homeless veterans, PTSD awareness, single-mother support, elder support, youth mentorship, and others.

Our planned youth programs, which include new shooter safety training, a youth action shooting league, and a “little” league addition to our proprietary Major League Shooters game. We gear all these programs to develop maturity, discipline, skill, and problem-solving.

Finally, our planned law enforcement programs, which provide not only a professional environment but also affordable, high-level skills training for individual officers and small-block training for agencies. These programs suit the hectic, unpredictable working environments that police face.

Ultimately, everything involves compromise. Will they trust us to be good neighbors and allow us to freely chase our dream? They hold an absolute right to their property. Are they gatekeeping to deny others the freedom to exercise their rights to pursue life, liberty, and property? Will they give us the opportunity to positively affect not only Morton Bend but also the citizens of Floyd County? Do the benefits to the broader community outweigh the inconveniences to the very few, inconveniences that we have thoroughly assessed with robust plans for risk mitigation?

Good people, I appreciate your help beyond words. Please reach out to these officials in the most courteous and professional manner. Voice your support for this homegrown, grassroots, community-driven endeavor. -Edgar