

CPI



**COUNTY COMMISSION**  
BALDWIN COUNTY  
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MEMBERS  
DIST. 1 FRANK BURT, JR.  
2. ROBERT E. (BOB) JAMES  
3. J. TUCKER DORSEY  
4. CHARLES F. CRUBER

**SPEAKING POLICY REQUIREMENTS**

1. All individuals wishing to address the Commission must fill out a speaking request form.
2. Verbal comments and interruptions from the floor will not be allowed.
3. Each speaker will be limited to *five minutes*. For groups of individuals that wish to address the Commission on the same topic, they will be limited to *three minutes* per speaker. In cases where there are multiple speakers on the same topic, speakers are encouraged not to repeat the same information presented by previous speakers.
- 4 All comments must be directed to the Chairman.
5. Under no circumstances will personal attacks on Elected Officials, Appointed Officials, employees or other individuals be allowed or tolerated.

*I/We* would like to address the Baldwin County Commission.

\*IMPORTANT -

1) Please present this form to the County Administrator before the Commission meeting at 8:30 a.m.

NAME(S):

Craig Skaggs ✓

ADDRESS(ES):

4542 Mill House Rd.  
Gulf Shores, AL

TELEPHONE  
NUMBER(S):

304 395 2629

SUBJECT:

Against resolution

CAI

Handout from  
Craig ~~Skaggs~~  
skaggs

Aug. 7 Baldwin Co. Commission

I am Craig Skaggs. I am a former managing lobbyist for DuPont Company interests in chemicals, fibers, paints, electronics, and companies we owned, such as Pioneer Seeds, DuPont-Merck Pharmaceuticals, Conoco Oil, Consol Coal and dozens of other companies and joint ventures. As a Baldwin County resident at Marty Woods in Gulf Shores, I am opposed to the resolution you are considering today.

Let me first call on my decades of government affairs experience to dismiss the unsophisticated behavior of our elected officials in Montgomery, who recently, in the dark of night and at the behest of a powerful super, super-conservative State Senator, followed the lead of the conspiracy theorists at the Wisconsin-based John Birch Society and the tiny, far-northern-Alabama Alliance for Citizens Rights to pass unneeded state legislation supposedly aimed at preventing the United nations from destroying the property rights of Alabamians. We've seen the silly conspiracy theory brochures. Pure poppycock.

I have significant experience in dealing with the United Nations, and I assure you, defending residents from some trumped up United Nations "plot" is just an effort by landed interests to promote rampant development at the expense of the less powerful among us.

Those fomenting fear of the United Nations are taking a page from the practices of Hitler, who always amassed his followers by warning of a horrible conspiracy. I'm sorry to see our state apparently is in the grips of conspiracy theorists holding up silly prospects of destruction, such as U.N. proposition 21. Moreover, Horizon 2025 is in no way derived from the United Nations or Proposition 21. I have read the documents. I know.

Now, let me address the importance of Horizon 2025. After retirement, my wife and I spent three years, full time, traveling around the eastern U.S. We decided to settle here two years ago, largely due to the way Gulf Shores was trying to manage its development and because of Horizon 2025, which assured us our property values, which are not in any Baldwin County planning zone, are being protected. Horizon 2025 is extremely important for safe population growth in the area. Do we really want rampant growth based only on the changing political whims of County Commissions or the greedy land interests that often control our politicians? Isn't it better for all citizens to give their input into developing some certainty for all our futures? Today, that certainty is Horizon 2025.

My background as a DuPont executive has trained me to support "sustainability", such as that promoted by Horizon 2025. Let me give you just one example from a major corporation's standpoint. You all have heard of "Not in my backyard", which means people don't want a chemical plant, an oil refinery, a landfill, a prison erected near their homes. You all understand that.

What you probably DON'T know is that companies like DuPont REALLY don't want towns encroaching on their production facilities, either. For example, at one plant not far

from here, DuPont fought to have an old-age home near one of its facilities shut down and moved. We often offered to pay folks to move away from our operations. We didn't want a plant accident to harm or smoke out local residents. We didn't want noise and environmental complaints and lawsuits. We wanted the option to expand operations without encroaching on our neighbors.

Likewise, new industrial operators will frown on lack of a Baldwin County planning document. Your new megasite will benefit from a plan for the future that investors can study as they consider bringing jobs here.

You can see, then, that Horizon 2025 is critical for industrial certainty and growth of jobs in Baldwin County. The plan is not just a positive for homeowners. Trashing the plan now sends a terrible signal to residents and potential investors.

And in the wake of the BP disaster, do you really want to forgo environmental requirements by discarding the sustainability processes suggested by Horizon 2025? Today, do you want to trash standing important environmental protections? Let me just quote one such example.

My property is surrounded by wetlands. Section 10 of the Baldwin County zoning ordinance states: "the wetlands within Baldwin County, Ala., are indispensable and fragile natural resources with significant development constraints due to flooding, erosion and soils limitations."

"They provide habitat areas for fish, wildlife and vegetation; water quality maintenance and pollution control; flood control; erosion control; natural resource education; scientific study; and open space and recreational opportunities," it states. "A considerable number of these important natural resources have been lost or impaired by draining, dredging, filling, excavating, building, pollution and other acts. Piecemeal or cumulative losses will, over time, destroy additional wetlands. Damaging or destroying wetlands threatens public safety and the general welfare."

That ordinance is not something to trash. Is it?

We don't need to waste all the time, citizen input and the \$280,000 spent to develop Horizon 2025. We need to spend our time on important issues, such as the lack of homeowners' insurance that is destroying our economy, not spend time worrying over whether the United Nations is launching a plot to control Alabama and Baldwin County. We need certainty. We need a plan. We need to keep Horizon 2025.

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