

I have read all of the articles on The Herald Argus and News Dispatch regarding the tour of the intermodal facility. I was on the tour myself, and have a much different opinion than what has been reported in the various articles that I have read. I try to be open-minded in most every aspect of my life. I know there are two sides to every story. Each and every person is entitled to their own opinion. That is why I decided to write this. It is my opinion of what I heard and saw while on the tour.

First I will say this. I was impressed that it seems that the little Village of Elwood seems to be fairly untouched by having the intermodal within 2 miles of their quaint town. Their quaint little town now has new roads and street lights. A new shiny town hall, and fire station. Is all of that SO important?? I agree that there would definitely be new roads needed to handle all of the additional traffic. I walked around the town. I didn't see much activity. People came and went. They visited the little store. They picked up their mail. They did the same things that people do every day in small town America.

I also heard Amy Ingalls, the Village Administrator speak of jobs that are between \$9-13.00 per hour, no benefits, and that are contractural jobs. I heard the Sheriff speak of his concerns that few containers are actually checked as they come into the intermodal. I heard the Fire Chief laugh at the thought of those unseen particles that ARE ever present in their quality of air. And I heard him say when that concern was brought up, well, they had the oil refinery in the next town over, so what does it really matter?? (in my words. I did not write his words down in detail)

I toured this monstrous Wal-Mart Distribution Center, of which I still cannot even fathom around the Union Mills area. It was clean and organized, like most factories that I have been into.

We drove around the outskirts of the actual rail intermodal facility, as we were unable to tour the facility itself. Now, THAT was what I hoped to see. That is what is being proposed for this wonderful town of Union Mills. Security reasons, liability reasons is what I have heard as to why we could not tour the facility itself.

I am a looker and a thinker. Some tell me I think and analyze way too much. But, oh well!! That is the way I am!!

I looked at all of the warehouses/distribution centers that are many, many miles away from the facility itself. On the way there and back! We all know how the suburbs of Chicago are. Filled with many business, warehouses, distribution centers, fast food joints, low income housing, (by what you see off of the toll road) etc, etc, etc!!

I met many people. Even a few whom I haven't seen for years, and many who know my family. I was proud to have been able to be on this trip. Thank you for this opportunity.

I understand that every person involved has their own ideas and opinions as to what will be best for LaPorte County. For the citizens of the county! That is the way it should be! While doing so, they also must decide that what is good for some is not always good for all! There are people who have a lot to lose. There are some who may benefit greatly. But, will the good outweigh the bad? I personally

don't think so. Tax abatements, additional air quality issues, added road issues, not to mention the lack of additional police, fire response. And what would happen to South Central Elementary/Jr. High and High School??

There are many questions, and hopefully we will receive more information when the proposal is actually laid out for all to read. But, in the meantime, we can only speculate, and hope that the productive farm ground that my family has loved and nurtured for so many years (60+) will not be forgotten when these proposals are given to the public.

If the intermodal HAS to come into this community, I can only wish that the developers choose the site as KOP. Their intermodal was built on an old, unused weapons facility in Elwood. So, why would anyone want to take productive farm ground and cover it with concrete, rail cars, and container "boxes." in Union Mills?? I think it will only be a matter of time before distribution centers, warehouses, fast food joints, and gas stations take over Kingsford Heights, Kingsbury, Union Mills, and the town of LaPorte if the intermodal comes into this area. If you want to see big.....just head West!!

Sincerely, Kathy Malstaff-Brew