August 5, 2022

Re: Citizen concern about SPLOST VIII intergovernmental agreement

Commissioners of the City of Albany and of Dougherty County --

As a citizen of this community, I am concerned that the city of Albany and Dougherty County have not reached an intergovernmental agreement that allows us to fully leverage the collections potential of the eighth special-purpose local-option sales tax, which is expected to generate $100 million in six years.

Without an agreement reached by August 8, you risk diminishing the impact of SPLOST and placing great burden to the businesses and citizens of Albany and Dougherty County.

The taxpayers of this community have historically supported SPLOST, ESPLOST and TSPLOST because we recognize the impact of the projects on our community. With nearly 50 percent of the tax collection is from visitors, the local taxpayer burden is significantly reduced.

Without SPLOST, Albany and Dougherty County could not endure the capital expense of the proposed project list and taxpayers would be forced to fund these improvements by other means, such as increased property taxes or service rates. This places excessive pressure on a community that is working hard to recover *and* to prosper.

As a taxpayer, the ongoing tension creates disillusionment in the process. Voter turnourt this year was extremely low. This disagreement could lead to a further decline at the polls.

Albany and Dougherty County is a strong and vibrant community, and one that I proudly call home. To protect it and to strengthen it, I urge you to adopt an intergovernmental agreement that maximizes the potential of SPLOST VIII.

Sincerely,

[Insert Name]

[Insert Business]