

To: The Town of Temple Zoning Board of Adjustment

From: Tom Hawkins

203 Old Revolutionary Road, Temple, New Hampshire 03084

RE: TRAFFIC STUDIES: Application for Special Exception –  
Tax Map 2, Lot 17 – Property of Ben's Pure Maple Products, LLC

Date: March 1, 2021

Dear ZBA Committee Members:

For the reasons presented below, I request that the ZBA engage an independent traffic engineering consultant on behalf of the Town of Temple to conduct the necessary research, review, and analysis required to properly evaluate the impact of increased traffic on the neighborhood surrounding the Ben's Pure Maple Products Project.

There are problems with the Steven G. Pernaw & Company Traffic Studies. The primary concern with both studies is that they are entirely based on the applicant's estimates of customer and employee trips to and from the proposed facility. Those numbers are unreasonably low. Additionally, both studies focus primarily on a limited period surrounding the "typical Maple Syrup weekend" in March. However, this facility and its retail space will operate year-round. Although there may be some special events held during March, the factory will be processing and bottling imported sap and syrup year-round. The retail operation, likewise, will be open year-round – from early in the day during commuter traffic to late into the evening during the dinner hour. Certainly, the retail operation will draw much more traffic than the Pernaw studies suggest.

An informal, but careful count of traffic turning into and out of a similar retail establishment just 5.6 west on NH Route 101 at the intersection of NH Route 202 in Peterborough, between 5:00 am and 8:00 am on a typical Friday morning, revealed that 14% of the passing traffic on 202 stopped at the Dunkin Donuts establishment. Between 7:00 am and 8:00 am, there was a peak number of 68 entrance trips to and 68 exit trips from the DD. That rate of activity, when applied to the through traffic at the intersections of NH Route 101, NH Route 45 and Webster Highway is 91 entrance trips to and 91 exit trips from the maple facility. Clearly, the activity at the maple facility will be far greater than the 6 trips to and 6 trips from the facility, as reported in the Pernaw studies for that same morning hour. All the traffic flow charts in the studies are based on those low numbers.

The Pernaw numbers are not reasonable.

Having such a commercial production and retail facility built in our neighborhood is, of course, a concern to the neighborhood. We worry that increased traffic at the intersections of Routes 101 and 45 and Webster Highway will cause traffic to overflow onto our local neighborhood road, as it will be an easy way to avoid congestion at the increasingly busy intersection. The Pernaw Studies completely ignore any traffic effect on roads beyond Route 101.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tom Hawkins

