

NANCY MACE
1ST DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND REFORM

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS



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January 3rd, 2023

Ed Pappas
Chairman
Beaufort County Planning Commission
100 Ribaut Road
Beaufort, South Carolina 29902

Dear Mr. Pappas,

I write you today to share my concerns regarding the development of a golf course and gated community on the historic 498-acre Pine Island Plantation and St. Helenaville property on St. Helena Island.

As you and the commission are reviewing an agenda item to amend the St. Helena Island Cultural Protection Overlay District (CPO) to allow this development on January 5th, I wanted to ensure you knew of the concerns voiced in the community.

With the rapid expansion of the Lowcountry's population, especially in Beaufort County, debates are happening at all levels of government across the region and the state. Few such decisions threaten the natural beauty, culture, and rich history of our state to the same level as this proposal.

Many of my constituents fear changes to the CPO, which has protected St. Helena from this type of development since 1999, will signal "open season" to developers and create a domino effect on St. Helena and beyond. Consideration of the benefits weighed against the certain damage to this pristine, historic, and culturally significant land will yield a decision to leave the CPO untouched.

I ask that you and the commission take my concerns and similar concerns shared by the Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition, the Coastal Conservation League, Penn Center, and many residents to heart and protect the region from this and future developments.

As our state continues to expand, I encourage you and other planning commissions in the Lowcountry prioritize protecting and conserving our state's beauty and rich culture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Mace".

Nancy Mace
Member of Congress