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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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### Council should reconsider Wal-Mart votes

Unfortunately, we were unable to attend last week's meeting regarding the annexation of the property on the west side of Hartford for the proposed Wal-Mart site.

We will hopefully be able to put some other things aside to attend meetings in the future, but we want to make it clear to our representatives as to our stand on this issue. Rumor has it (not verified) that Alderperson (Wayne) Rusniak stated that there are about 7,000 voting adults in the city of Hartford, and that about 1,000 of them have voiced opposition to the construction of a Wal-Mart supercenter in Hartford, therefore 6,000 must be in favor of it. Well, we are two of those who previously have not spoken out, but are definitely not in favor of the proposed Wal-Mart store in Hartford.

Using similar logic, one can only assume that since 16 people signed up to speak in opposition at

the last council meeting and only 4 in favor, that the people of Hartford are in opposition by a 4 to 1 ratio. My guess is that this is more accurate than Mr. Rusniak's logic.

In all of our years as residents of Hartford (five of those as business owners), we have never seen a matter that has generated more controversy than this. There are way too many issues and questions to be resolved to the satisfaction of the people of Hartford BEFORE any approvals continue toward the building at the Wal-Mart site. Traffic, environmental impact, and economic impact, have been "discussed" but not resolved. If all of the good things that Wal-Mart wants to bring to Hartford are true, then why are there so many against it? And why so many Web sites voicing similar opposition?

Where there is this much smoke, there is sure to be a giant

fire from which we may not be able to recover.

Just "Google" Wal-Mart on the Internet. Four of the 10 listings on the first page are sites devoted to the damage done by Wal-Mart throughout the country. I strongly suggest that the impact on cities in Wisconsin and elsewhere that are the approximate size of Hartford be investigated thoroughly before taking any actions that will be difficult or impossible to reverse.

We urge all council members and voters to review these briefs from those four Google'd listings and do their absolute best and deepest investigations before allowing Wal-Mart or any other "big box" store to our area.

We all owe it to the great city of Hartford to do so.

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