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**Sent:** Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:33 PM

**To:** Wrinn, Michael <[Michael.Wrinn@WILTONCT.ORG](mailto:Michael.Wrinn@WILTONCT.ORG)>

**Subject:** CHS proposal

Janette Alvarez

31 Telva Road

Wilton

To Mr. Wrinn and Whom This May Concern,

I am writing as both a concerned resident and a concerned area veterinarian regarding the proposed exceptions for the CT Humane Society on Danbury Road. I am writing to oppose the plans for the CHS as current.

This area is not properly zoned, even under the exception for the charitable organization for a building of this size. I dare to say it is not even close, as the building's proposed square footage is almost 50% larger than the exception to the residential zoning would allow! I am concerned that this is a large building with lots of pavement planned, set upon and/or near to wetlands, sure to impact the functioning and preservation of clean wetlands. I would also consider the ability of the business to contain animal diseases, and zoonotic animal diseases, and the disinfectants that must be used to prevent transmissible diseases to other domestic animals, wildlife, and even to people. The protection of our wetlands, watershed, wildlife and residents of this town is very important to me and to us as a community, as I understand it. Furthermore, the size and design proposed do not at all fit with the feel of Wilton and its character. The veterinary service arm of this business is also concerning. It would seem problematic and dishonest that this business model for a charitable veterinary business does not confirm that the people seeking services are truly in need of the charity. Services are simply provided at a lower cost and on CHS' own website "not based on an individual's income". Unfortunately, I think this misleads donors and undermines the work and fees charged in earnest of the many veterinarians that so dutifully and wonderfully serve our community animals. I also am suspect about the future plans for this very large facility. The unspoken plans. It would seem to me that the facility proposed is much larger than what would be needed for their proposed work.

I do not believe that a large business with deep pockets should be allowed to make exceptions that impact the feel and functioning of our town. As a resident on wetlands, which many of us in Wilton are, I cannot take down trees or brush at will. I cannot even erect an outdoor fireplace on wetlands. I do not treat my yard with any chemicals, although I could. I don't do this because I am a community member, proud of what we

value, and happy to support the beauty and hopefully health of the wildlife and all of the inhabitants in Wilton. I fear the CHS already does not have Wilton's best interests at heart, but rather their own.

Personally, I think holding steadfast to our wetlands regulations for all businesses is just as important as the way we seem to do it for private residents of this town. And, I think a charitable organization that does not really verify the need for a charitable service is a sham, as well as a detriment to the veterinary community.

Is it true that as a charitable organization the town will be losing the property tax on that property? I hope not.

Would neighboring residential properties be devalued? I implore you not to allow it if we suspect this would happen. We must value our residents and the investments they have made and make every day in our community.

I am not against the CT Humane Society. I just believe the building should fit with our current regulations, with the desired look of the town, and the business practices should be legitimately run. I am concerned that none of these conditions will be met if we allow CHS to operate the way they propose on the property they currently desire at 863-875 Danbury Road.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Janette Alvarez