



BILL LEE

GOVERNOR
STATE OF TENNESSEE

August 22, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum,

Please accept this as my full support for a strategic land swap initiative in Hamilton County, Tennessee. County Mayor Weston Wamp and State Senator Bo Watson have worked alongside fellow state and federal leaders on the proposed land use exchange between Enterprise South Industrial Park in Chattanooga and McDonald Farm in Sale Creek. This initiative is an opportunity to align smart economic growth with responsible land stewardship, unlocking new potential for high-wage job creation while preserving one of Tennessee's most iconic rural properties for future public use.

This forward-looking proposal positions Hamilton County to expand industrial development at Enterprise South, an already successful and nationally competitive job center, while permanently preserving and enhancing McDonald Farm for citizens and tourists to enjoy. The initiative would transfer federal deed restrictions from portions of Enterprise South to McDonald Farm, tapping into high-value acreage for advanced manufacturing at the industrial park while ensuring the farm remains protected for future use, honoring Southeast Tennessee's recreational legacy.

This exchange also opens the door for realistic economic development opportunities at McDonald Farm. With interest and partnership at both the county and state levels, there is a shared vision to invest in the site's potential as a destination for outdoor recreation, agritourism, and conservation-focused development—sectors that align with Tennessee's natural strengths and heritage. In doing so, the initiative not only supports job creation and industrial growth at Enterprise South but also leverages McDonald Farm's unique landscape to benefit rural economies, families, and future public use.

This proposal reflects a thoughtful, collaborative approach to land use—one that balances prosperity with preservation. We respectfully encourage your support for this transformative initiative, which stands to benefit Hamilton County, the State of Tennessee, and our broader region for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Bill Lee
Governor



Department of Economic and Community Development

Stuart C. McWhorter
Commissioner

Bill Lee
Governor

August 26, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Support for Hamilton County's Land Exchange Proposal

Dear Secretary Burgum,

On behalf of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, I write in strong support of a proposed land exchange in Hamilton County, Tennessee. This initiative, led by County Mayor Weston Wamp and State Senator Bo Watson, in close collaboration with federal, state, and local partners, proposes the strategic transfer of land between Enterprise South Industrial Park in Chattanooga and McDonald Farm in Sale Creek. The proposal represents a rare opportunity to advance Tennessee's dual priorities of economic growth and land conservation.

At its core, this effort enables the continued industrial expansion of Enterprise South, a cornerstone of advanced manufacturing and job creation in our state. By lifting federal deed restrictions on key parcels within the park, Hamilton County can meet the growing demand for industrial space that supports high-quality jobs and long-term economic impact. In exchange, McDonald Farm, a site of natural beauty and historic significance, would be permanently protected for public use, outdoor recreation, and heritage tourism.

This land swap not only enhances Enterprise South's competitiveness, but also paves the way for innovative economic opportunities at McDonald Farm. The site's potential as a rural destination for agritourism, conservation education, and recreational development aligns closely with our department's mission to support job creation across diverse sectors, including those tied to Tennessee's natural assets. The vision for McDonald Farm demonstrates how strategic investments can drive growth while honoring the character and heritage of our rural communities.

We view this proposal as a thoughtful, forward-leaning approach to land use that reflects Tennessee's commitment to smart growth, sustainable development, and economic opportunity. I respectfully urge your consideration and support of this proposal, which will create lasting value for Hamilton County and the broader region.

Sincerely,

Stuart C. McWhorter
Commissioner



Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Ellington Agricultural Center | P.O. Box 40627 | Nashville, TN 37204
615-837-5100

Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M.
Commissioner

Bill Lee
Governor

September 3, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum,

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the proposed land exchange in Hamilton County between Enterprise South Industrial Park and McDonald Farm.

The proposal to remove deed restrictions at Enterprise South will protect the more than 2,000 acres of McDonald Farm for long-term agricultural, educational, and recreational use. The land exchange is an opportunity to strengthen economic development while permanently preserving this agricultural property.

TDA supports collaborative efforts that protect working lands and provide new pathways for rural economic opportunity. We are committed to advancing rural prosperity and preserving Tennessee's heritage rooted in agriculture.

Please reach out to our office if you have any questions or need any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CH", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M.
Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
FINANCE
JOINT ECONOMIC
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum,

I write to express my support for the proposed land exchange in Hamilton County, Tennessee, involving Enterprise South Industrial Park and McDonald Farm. This initiative, led by County Mayor Weston Wamp and State Senator Bo Watson, in collaboration with other state and federal partners, presents a smart, strategic opportunity to drive economic development while preserving a vital piece of Tennessee's rural landscape.

By enabling continued expansion at Enterprise South, this proposal strengthens a nationally recognized hub for advanced manufacturing and job creation. At the same time, it ensures McDonald Farm, an iconic agricultural and recreational asset, remains protected and available for future public benefit.

This thoughtful land use solution balances economic growth with long-term conservation and reflects the kind of local leadership and collaboration that Tennesseans value. I respectfully encourage your consideration and support of this initiative. Please contact my staff should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
FINANCE
JOINT ECONOMIC
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN
3RD DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

CHAIRMAN, ENERGY AND WATER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4203

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2187 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3271 (202) 225-3494 (FAX)

DISTRICT OFFICES
FEDERAL COURTHOUSE, SUITE 126
900 GEORGIA AVENUE
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37402
(423) 756-2342 (423) 756-6613 (FAX)
200 ADMINISTRATION ROAD, SUITE 100
P.O. BOX 2001
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830
(865) 576-1976 (865) 576-3221 (FAX)
6 EAST MADISON AVENUE COURTHOUSE
ATHENS, TN 37303-4297

August 26, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum,

I write in strong support of Hamilton County's proposed land exchange involving property associated with Enterprise South Industrial Park in Chattanooga and the McDonald Farm Property in Sale Creek. I appreciate the joint leadership of County Mayor Weston Wamp, State Senator Bo Watson, other state officials, and federal partners advancing this effort.

This exchange would achieve two complementary goals that are important to Tennesseans:

1. **Sustain high-quality job growth at Enterprise South.** The County's advanced manufacturing hub has become a cornerstone of our regional economy. The exchange will provide the certainty needed for responsible industrial expansion, supply-chain investment, and long-term competitiveness.
2. **Conserve McDonald Farm for public benefit.** McDonald Farm is a cherished rural landmark with ecological, cultural, and recreational value. The exchange will allow the County to preserve the property for Tennesseans.

This balanced approach to land use promotes industrial competitiveness while safeguarding working lands and natural landscapes. It reflects Tennessee's values and tradition of stewardship. I respectfully ask for your support for this proposal that advances both regional prosperity and lasting conservation.

I am grateful for your consideration and stand ready to assist the Department and our local partners in any way that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress

BO WATSON
SENATOR
11TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

HOME OFFICE
P. O. Box 2059
Hixson, TN 37343
(423) 488-2353

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE
Cordell Hull Building Suite 706
NASHVILLE, TN 37243
(615) 741-3227



CHAIRMAN:
Finance, Ways & Means

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

Health & Welfare
Commerce & Labor
Rules
Council on Pensions

August 29, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum,

We are writing to express our strong support for the proposed land swap between McDonald Farm and Enterprise South in Hamilton County, Tennessee. Thoughtful land management and sustainable stewardship are vital to our nation's future, and we believe this exchange offers substantial benefits to local communities and the broader public interest.

Enterprise South stands as a proven engine for industrial development and the creation of high wage jobs. Its continued expansion has generated meaningful economic growth and opportunity, helping to elevate the quality of life for area residents. A land swap would amplify these benefits by enabling further investment and innovation within Enterprise South, solidifying its role as a cornerstone for employment and prosperity in our region.

Equally important, McDonald Farm possesses remarkable potential for conservation, recreation, and the development of agritourism. The farm's unique landscape and agricultural legacy provide fertile ground for preserving native habitats, supporting biodiversity, and promoting environmentally responsible practices. By prioritizing conservation, McDonald Farm can serve as a living classroom for sustainable agriculture and land stewardship.

The opportunities for recreation at McDonald Farm are also significant. It could offer the public a chance to engage in outdoor activities such as hiking, birdwatching, and educational tours. These amenities invite families, students, and visitors to connect directly with nature and the history of working farms.



Furthermore, the development of agritourism at McDonald Farm can stimulate local economic growth while fostering deeper connections between urban and rural communities. Agritourism initiatives—such as seasonal festivals, farm-to-table experiences, and hands-on workshops—would showcase the region's agricultural heritage and attract visitors from across the region. These programs would build appreciation for farming traditions, support local producers, and create new sources of income for the community.

Of particular note, the proposed swap would transfer federal deed restrictions from portions of Enterprise South to McDonald Farm. This arrangement ensures that the spirit of conservation and responsible stewardship is preserved, while enabling Enterprise South to pursue industrial development and job creation with greater flexibility. By applying these deed restrictions to McDonald Farm, the land's conservation, recreation, and agritourism opportunities will be protected for future generations.

By facilitating this land swap, the Department of the Interior would help ensure that Enterprise South realizes its promise for industrial advancement, while McDonald Farm flourishes as a destination for conservation, recreation, and agritourism. This balanced approach benefits residents, preserves local character, and upholds our shared commitment to stewardship of the land.

We urge you to give this proposal your fullest consideration and support its timely implementation. The success of a land swap between McDonald Farm and Enterprise South would affirm our collective dedication to collaborative, effective land management and set a positive precedent for future initiatives that foster both community and economic growth.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide further insight or assistance.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bo Watson".

State Senator Bo Watson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Vital".

State Representative Greg Vital

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Esther Haynes".

State Representative Esther Haynes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yusuf Hakeem".

State Representative Yusuf Hakeem

Cc: Hamilton County Legislative Delegation
Governor Bill Lee, Tennessee
Mayor Weston Wamp, Hamilton County

ECD Commissioner Stuart McWhorter, Tennessee
TEDC Commissioner David Salyers, Tennessee
U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn, Tennessee
U.S. Senator Bill Hagerty, Tennessee
U.S. Congressman Chuck Fleischman, Tennessee



October 7, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

On behalf of the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, we express our strong support for the proposed land use exchange between Hamilton County, the City of Chattanooga, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the State of Tennessee.

Enterprise South is Chattanooga's premier industrial corridor. It has already transformed our region by attracting Volkswagen, Amazon, and a network of global suppliers which have created thousands of jobs in our community. With existing acreage now fully absorbed, Chattanooga faces a pivotal moment: unless we unlock additional land, we will no longer have the large, contiguous sites required to recruit the next Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or transformational employer.

For many years, the Chamber has advocated for creating additional sites for industrial recruitment as well as the retention and expansion of our existing industry in Hamilton County, including the possibility of development at McDonald Farm. Our consistent position has been clear: Our community must secure more large-acreage tracts if we want to compete for major employers and create economic opportunities for our citizens.

At the national level, this land exchange will directly support President Trump's aim to create high-paying American jobs by expanding the U.S. manufacturing base. Enterprise South is well positioned to help move this important domestic goal forward as it has a proven track record of supporting significant foreign direct investment as well as investment by leading national and local employers. Without viable, shovel-ready sites, Chattanooga and Tennessee cannot advance this aspect of the President's domestic policy agenda.

This land use exchange also represents an ideal path forward for our local community. By unlocking additional acreage at Enterprise South — Chattanooga's premier industrial corridor — we ensure that our community retains the developable acreage necessary to compete for OEM-scale projects. Enterprise South already has the advantages of dual rail, interstate access, airport proximity, and utility infrastructure, making it the most strategic site for industrial expansion in the region.

While this proposal also provides a pathway to advance McDonald Farm for future economic and community benefit, its central importance is clear: positioning Chattanooga and Hamilton County to continue leading as Tennessee's hub for advanced manufacturing and global investment.



The Chamber urges the US Department of Interior, Chattanooga City Council, Hamilton County Commission and all partners to approve this land use exchange. This is Chattanooga's best and likely last chance to capture hundreds of contiguous acres inside city limits for industrial development — and with it, the ability to recruit world-class employers that will create much needed career opportunities for our citizens and define our region's economic future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Charles Wood', written in a cursive style.

Charles Wood, CEcD

President & CEO