



For Immediate Release

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Oak Ridge Chamber Takes Position on TVA Land Policy

October 30, 2006 – The Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors recently weighed in on TVA’s proposed Land Use Policy. In a position statement, the Board has submitted requests that TVA reconsider changes to the proposed land policy under consideration..

According to Parker Hardy, President of the Oak Ridge Chamber, “TVA’s policy as it is proposed would have a significant impact on Oak Ridge’s economic development efforts, including industrial recruitment, residential development and retail/commercial development projects. The Chamber works under a strategic plan that is focused on six critical outcomes – three of which are directly impacted by the proposed TVA Land Policy.”

In regard to the proposed Industrial Development Land Use Policy, the Chamber’s statement says, “The requirement that any industrial development opportunities on TVA property must require water access severely limits the number of industrial prospects that would be deemed suitable for the property. Specifically relevant to Oak Ridge is the Clinch River Industrial Site, which is currently under consideration for a large project.”

The Chamber’s position requests that TVA property currently designated for industrial development continue as such without the condition of water access.

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Regarding other proposed changes to the TVA’s land policy, the Chamber noted that Oak Ridge has one of the best natural rowing courses in the country. Oak Ridge hosts numerous regattas and collegiate training and will be the site of the 2007 Women’s NCAA Rowing Finals. Currently, officials are pursuing several plans for re-development of the waterfront along Melton Lake Drive and at Haw Ridge.

The Chamber has suggested that the stringent regulations outlined in the proposed land policy related to retail and recreational use be modified to permit applications for waterfront use to be considered on each project’s individual merits and the economic impact in our region.

In addition, the Chamber has expressed its concern over proposed changes to Residential Land Use, noting that waterfront property is very desirable for residential development. The lakes and rivers attract many new residents to our region. Oak Ridge is bordered on three sides by water. The policy would severely impact Oak Ridge’s ability to develop that land for residential development.

The Chamber’s policy requests that TVA continue to transfer land for residential purposes and supporting activities on a case-by-case basis.

The Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce is a Four-Star Accredited Chamber of Commerce with approximately 700 members.

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