

# Vote NO

## Cambrians for Thoughtful Development urge voters to Just Say No to Didion.

### *Referendum Question.*

In the upcoming April elections voters in Cambria will be asked the following question:

**“Should the Village of Cambria negotiate with Didion Milling, Inc. to create a Developer’s Agreement regarding their ethanol plant?”**

We believe the answer to that question should be a resounding “NO!”

### *Why not negotiate?*

A reasonable person could conclude that there is no harm in negotiating with someone even though you oppose their goals. We all know that we “have to get what we can” out of these situations, right?

We believe that this reasoning does not apply in situations when the company on the other side has a consistent record of bad faith bargaining.

### *Beginnings*

Didion has not lived up to its original 1991 developers agreement with Cambria. Lighting guidelines and noise limits on their existing mill

have not been followed, nor are the original landscaping plans complete.

In addition, Didion ignored their obligation to apply to the Village for permits to construct more silos.

### *2002-2003 Proposal*

In the 2002-2003 go’round on the ethanol plant, Didion refused to conduct studies the Village required of them to prove that their wells would not harm our water supply. This was crucial information for judging the impact of the plant on Cambrians.

In April of 2003, 60% of the citizens in Cambria voted in near record numbers to oppose Didion Milling’s plans to construct an ethanol plant “in or near” our Village.

### *Extraterritorial efforts*

The Village then moved to extend extraterritorial control a half-mile into Courtland to pro-

tect the interests of the Village and its citizens from the unwanted plant. Representatives from the Town of Courtland refused to discuss options in good faith and “ran out the clock”, which allowed Didion to resume plans for an ethanol plant in the Town of Courtland. Didion could have intervened and could have worked toward an agreement with both sides. They didn’t.

### *2006 Proposal*

Didion offered a couple of limited “Developers Agreements” during 2006, one of which our Village attorney characterized as, “pretty skimpy”. These



*Cabbage Road - October 20, 2006*

were not serious attempts at opening negotiations.

Both the Village and Cambrians for Thoughtful Development offered suggested conditions which Columbia County could impose on Didion's Conditional Use Permit, suggestions which could have addressed many of our concerns. They were ignored. Didion could have intervened and adapted some of these conditions. They did not.



*Cabbage Road - March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007*

### *Cabbage Road*

Didion broke ground and began construction in

Courtland on October 21st, 2006. They filled the ditches within the Village right-of-way on Cabbage Road. They had no permission to do so. They moved heavy equipment on Cabbage Road in excess of the Village-wide 8 ton limit. They had no permit to do so. These are not the actions of a business intending to bargain with the Village in good faith, these are the actions of a business in the habit of doing what they please and seeking permission later. Could you get away with that?

### *What now?*

In the years since 2003 when we first rejected Didion's ethanol plans, the Village has consistently opposed efforts to site an ethanol plant where it would directly impact our Village. The Village passed and then strengthened ordinances

banning the production of ethanol within our Village limits.

The Village continues to oppose the construction of an ethanol plant in Courtland. This has nothing to do with opposing ethanol and everything to do with opposing the location of the plant.

**Citizens of Cambria are under no obligation to cooperate with Didion.** Didion has amply demonstrated their unwillingness to deal in good faith with the Village.

Cambria made it clear that we object to the Courtland site, yet Didion, Courtland officials, and Columbia County officials have repeatedly ignored our objections.

**We therefore urge voters to reject the referendum question by voting "NO" on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Cambrians for Thoughtful Development, UA is a registered unincorporated non-profit association.  
Please visit our web site: [homepage.mac.com/oscura/ctd/ctd.html](http://homepage.mac.com/oscura/ctd/ctd.html)

Paid for by the CTD Referendum Committee, John Mueller - Treasurer