

Brenda Wheeler

From: Loseke, Kari <kloseke@blairschools.org>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2026 5:15 PM
To: Frank Wolff; Gary Banner; Brent Clark; James Letcher; Kirk Highfill; Kent Long; Rick Paulsen; Kevin Willis; Mindy Rump
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: 6-23-2026 City Council letter in opposition to TIF



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Mayor Rump and Blair City Council Members,

First, thank you for taking the time to meet and learn more about our school district. Blair Community Schools are a source of pride for our community. While we have much to celebrate, we also face challenges and opportunities for improvement. I appreciate the opportunity to work together and share more going forward as we all strive to build a stronger Blair.

I recognize that serving in a public role requires making difficult decisions. Weighing competing interests and navigating controversy is never easy. I respect each of you and your commitment to making the decisions you believe are best for Blair.

However, I would be remiss if I did not share one final time my personal opposition to the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF). I strongly believe property owners have the right to develop their property as they see fit, and I also believe those improvements should generate tax revenue for the governing entities that serve our community.

TIF has been used in Blair for many years, and I believe the practice has placed an additional burden on taxpayers. Deferring tax revenue for up to 15 years does little to help property owners who are seeking property tax relief today. As we consider future projects, it is fair to ask whether the TIF developments of the past 25 years have produced the growth and long-term benefits that were originally anticipated.

As we look for ways to strengthen Blair's economy, attract young families, and retain residents, I believe we must first ensure we are doing everything possible to support and adequately fund our schools. School finance is increasingly challenging, particularly as state funding pressures continue and concerns about property taxes remain high across Nebraska. Additional revenue generated today—not 15 years from now—would help support our Board of Education decisions, our staff, and most importantly, our students.

Thank you again for your service and dedication to our community.

Sincerely,

Kari Loseke