

Business Development Board of Palm Beach County May 16 statement to Palm Beach Board of County Commissioners on the need for industrial warehouse space

Dear Commissioner,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. We are writing to you as a business advocate in Palm Beach County, with a deep conviction about the critical importance of creating and preserving industrial space in our region to attract and foster economic development.

Palm Beach County has long been recognized as a vibrant and prosperous community, blessed with natural beauty, a strong workforce, and a thriving business environment. However, as our county continues to experience rapid growth, we are facing a pressing challenge—the limited availability of industrial space. This scarcity is impeding our ability to meet the evolving needs of businesses and stifling our potential for sustainable economic development.

Allow me to highlight the key reasons why the creation and preservation of industrial space are crucial for the future prosperity of Palm Beach County:

1. **Economic Diversification:** Industrial spaces are the backbone of a robust and diversified economy. They provide a platform for a wide range of industries that the BDB has grown, including manufacturing, logistics, technology, research and development, and more. By fostering a diverse economic base, we can strengthen our resilience against market fluctuations and create more opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.
2. **Job Creation:** Industrial development translates into job creation. By expanding our industrial capacity, we can attract new businesses, encourage existing ones to grow, and facilitate the establishment of innovative startups. This, in turn, generates employment opportunities for our residents, reduces unemployment rates, and contributes to the overall economic well-being of our community.
3. **Attracting Investments:** Investors seek regions with ample industrial space to establish or expand their operations. By addressing the shortage of industrial real estate, we can position Palm Beach County as an attractive destination for local, national, and international companies. This influx of investments brings capital, expertise, and innovative technologies to our community, elevating our global competitiveness.
4. **Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises:** Industrial spaces provide an ideal environment for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to thrive. These businesses are the lifeblood of our economy, often contributing to significant job creation and fostering innovation. By offering accessible and affordable industrial spaces, we can empower SMEs to grow, scale, and contribute to the economic vitality of our county.
5. **Community Development and Sustainability:** A well-planned industrial ecosystem is essential for the balanced development of our county. By designating and preserving industrial areas, we can ensure that businesses operate in appropriate locations, minimizing disruptions to residential neighborhoods. Additionally, modern industrial spaces can be developed with a strong focus on sustainability, incorporating energy-efficient infrastructure, eco-friendly practices, and green spaces that enhance the overall quality of life for our residents.

In light of the compelling reasons outlined above, we urge you to consider the urgent need to prioritize the creation and preservation of industrial space in Palm Beach County. This requires collaborative efforts between government entities, urban planners, developers, and business leaders to identify suitable areas, and streamline permitting processes to expedite the construction of state-of-the-art industrial facilities.

By taking decisive action to address this challenge, we can secure a prosperous future for Palm Beach County, attract high-quality jobs, encourage innovation, and elevate the overall standard of living for our residents.

Thank you for your service and attention to this matter. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss further how we can work together to create a thriving industrial landscape in our beloved county.

Sincerely,

Kelly Smallridge
President & CEO