

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Group isn't alone
in big-box dread**

Last week someone wrote saying how tired she was of Bedford Watch running things in Bedford, how people who voted against rezoning to allow a Walmart here were confused and thought they were voting to allow a Walmart instead, and how bad it was to shop in Toledo. She suggested the residents who don't want a Walmart should just move to Ida, Riga or Maybee.

Well, I don't know anyone connected to Bedford Watch and I opposed rezoning the Whitman property to allow a Walmart from day one. I also voted along with thousands of other Bedford residents NOT to allow a Walmart here. I wasn't confused about my vote, but then, like most residents, I can read.

I suggest that writer move near the Walmart Supercenter in Monroe if she wants to buy things made in China and speed up the loss of American jobs. Loss of American jobs is causing massive unemployment resulting in home foreclosures and less taxes to run communities. That means less to pay for schools, roads, police and essential services. Where is her concern for the many longtime small business owners in Bedford who would be put out of business if Walmart builds here?

It is this "Shop Walmart and save a few cents on cheap, toxic, junk made in China" mentality that is killing America today. You can't even buy shoes made in America anymore. The first thing Walmart would

do if they were allowed in Bedford is pressure the township for millions of dollars of road improvements, sewer and utility upgrades, tax abatements for creating low-paying jobs, etc. It would be years before Bedford would realize any tax benefit. Then watch home values for a mile in every direction drop by 20 percent, causing a huge decrease in township tax revenues.

Most Bedford residents know we have an oasis here and they aren't going to let Whitman, Walmart and a few people who want to shop there spoil it. Cities and towns all around us are dying, going broke, can't fix roads and are closing malls and storefronts left and right. We have enough of that here in Bedford now. Let's not add to it. Finally, I'd like to thank Bedford Watch and anyone else out there volunteering their time to make and keep Bedford a better and safer place to live than anywhere for miles around.

**Ernest Ryan
Temperance**