

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the Lebanon City Council for their 'no' vote on the Cumberland Center that Mayor Philip Craighead has introduced. I was of the idea that the council might actually vote in favor of progress but I was glad to see that the same councilors who has tried diligently to deny us a community eager for progress and growth that at least are still showing their lack of foresight and willingness to do whatever it takes to grow our community!

The councilors' position takes more than showing up at work sessions and at council meetings. It takes the dedication to do whatever background work it takes to understand any issue or any project that would help us grow our community. It is also the task of the Mayor and city council to see that the general public knows what is going on in every aspect of a future project.

I do have reservations for a hockey team here in Lebanon, but at the same time I can see that a convention center could be a draw to our community for smaller venues that do not want to make use of the convention center in Nashville.

The retail and commercial aspects of the project would be a vital addition to our community. We are way behind the ball in growth compared to Murfreesboro and Franklin and even Mt. Juliet, our neighboring community here in Wilson County.

To the council I must ask the question: Do you so hate the fact that Mayor Craighead came up with this idea that you will sacrifice our community's ability to promote growth and continue to bring larger and more progressive companies with more and more jobs that will bring more tax dollars into our community?

The answer most assuredly must be yes!

Shame on you, councilors, for your lack of foresight and your blatant disregard for the needs of your community, this is sad indeed. Just because of a personal vendetta against the mayor, you

have once again killed a vital source of growth.

Once again I am ashamed of our council and I feel sick at heart for our beloved Lebanon. As long as we have these folks on the council we will never make any sizeable commitment to growth, and that will continue to make us the backwoods community of this area. I had hoped for so much more from our City Council, but I guess I will eventually learn better!

James C. (Jim) Heller

Lebanon