

CHAIRMAN OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chester A. Ellis
Chairman



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June 16, 2026

Mayor Tracy Saunders
City of Port Wentworth
7224 GA Highway 21
Port Wentworth, GA 31407

RE: E-Mail from Steve Davis dated June 16, 2025
Port Wentworth Resolution R25-06-04 for Public Transit

Dear Mayor Saunders:

I am in receipt of correspondence from City Manager Steve Davis about a Resolution adopted by the Port Wentworth City Council on June 12, 2025 requesting the city's inclusion in the Chatham Area Transit Service and Taxing District. I also appreciated our May 18 meeting related to this same matter.

As a supporter of public transit, I welcome your Council's decision to join the transit district and believe that public transit would add benefit to your community. However, the County has been in litigation with Chatham Area Transit since 2025 due to House Bill 756. This legislation removed County appointments from the CAT Board while adding appointments for other entities. The County believes that House Bill 756 is unconstitutional, and this litigation is still ongoing.

I did discuss your request to join the CAT Service and Taxing District with the Board of Commissioners last week. I have received consensus from all Board members that until House Bill 756 is resolved by the Courts, the County is not able or willing to expand the taxing district for CAT.

I suggest that we revisit this matter once the litigation is resolved.

Respectively,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chester A. Ellis".

Chester A. Ellis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission