



January 19, 2026

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
Commissioner Christine Moore, District 2
Commissioner Mayra Uribe, District 3
Commissioner Maribel Gomez Cordero, District 4
Commissioner Kelly Martinez Semrad, District 5
Commissioner Michael “Mike” Scott, District 6

FROM: Commissioner Nicole Wilson, District 1

SUBJECT: Request to Agenda a Temporary Moratorium on Approvals for Non-Municipal Detention Facilities

I am respectfully requesting that the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners agenda, at the earliest possible Board meeting, consideration of a temporary moratorium on all approvals related to proposed non-municipal detention facilities in unincorporated Orange County.

Recent interest in siting non-municipal detention facilities within commercial and residential zoning districts raises significant land use, environmental, infrastructure, and economic concerns that warrant immediate Board attention. Once approved, these facilities can result in long-lasting and irreversible impacts that limit the County’s ability to protect community character, ensure infrastructure adequacy, and align development with adopted policy goals.

Of particular concern are the potential adverse effects on Orange County’s tourism-driven economy. Tourism, hospitality, and visitor-serving commercial uses depend heavily on land use compatibility, public perception, and the overall quality of place. The placement of detention facilities in or near tourism corridors or mixed-use commercial areas risks undermining these critical economic sectors.

Additionally, non-municipal detention facilities may impose substantial environmental and infrastructure burdens, including high consumptive water use, increased wastewater and sewage treatment demands, solid and hazardous waste concerns, and impacts to stormwater systems and natural resources. These impacts may exceed what was contemplated in existing infrastructure planning and concurrency analyses for commercial or residential zoning districts.



A temporary moratorium is a recognized and lawful planning tool that would allow the County to pause approvals while staff conducts a comprehensive evaluation of land use compatibility, environmental and infrastructure impacts, and economic considerations, and while the Board considers whether additional policy guidance or regulatory standards are necessary. Proceeding without this pause risks foreclosing policy options and exposing the County to avoidable legal and fiscal risk.

Given the pace at which applications could be submitted or advanced, I believe it is essential that this issue be agendaized as soon as possible to protect Orange County's interests and preserve the Board's full range of policy choices. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to discussing this matter with you at an upcoming Board meeting.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicole Wilson".

Nicole Wilson
Commissioner, District 1