

My name is Joanna Eibes and I am a Realtor.

I am currently associated with Realty Executives of KC out of Lansing, KS. I have been working in real estate for 5 years now. Last fall when Tyson attempted to put a new plant in Tonganoxie where not only do I live, but do the majority of my business, the sh## literally hit the fan. Not only in the hearts of are community but in our real estate market as well. I had multiple clients who were looking to purchase homes in Tongie, all of which quit looking. Their reasons were all the same. "We don't want to live in Tonganoxie if Tyson is going to be coming here". One client had a cash contract on their home in Mission and they were moving back to their home town, Tongie. They cancelled their contract because they would rather stay there then move back home to a town that was about to be drastically changed from where they grew up. They also were just getting ready to open a new business in Tongie. They would rather drive 40 minutes to work then live in Tonganoxie. Another client was getting ready to list their home which was already in Tongie to buy a bigger nicer home in Tongie. They too decided to wait and see how the Tyson story played out. To this date both of those clients have stayed in the homes they were in at the time of the Tyson announcement, still waiting to be sure there isn't something else lurking in the corner. That was four real estate deals for me that I would have had but all were put on hold thanks to the Tyson proposal. That was a big hit for me and my family. Those deals would have been about \$25,000 of income that I would have made in 2017 that I didn't. Maybe not for some people, but for me that is a lot of money. I have a daughter getting braces this month and a daughter starting college.....now where do come up with the money for this?!?!?! I am not a developer, but we do have multiple housing developments going in in Tonganoxie. All the work on those was put to a halt. There were still some home sales happening but most of them were below \$200,000 and probably more in the 100-150 price range. By stopping the developments that put many people out of work who were most likely hurt financially like my family was. But you can't build a bunch of nice new houses within miles of a poultry plant and expect to sell them. Then I got multiple calls and questions of what should I do with my home? Should I put it up for sale now or should I wait and see what happens. I don't want to lose a bunch of money on my house, or is it too late? What am I going to do? What am I supposed to do? Please tell me what you think? How was I supposed to tell them that if Tyson is coming it is to late, you are going to lose value on your home. Depending on how close you live to the plant it could be a lot. I didn't want to have to tell them that. Now not only do they have to worry about how this plant will change their town, their health, and their overall life, but also their pocket book. And I was one of them too. I had just built a new house less then 5 miles from the proposed Tyson site. Can we even sell our home for what we owe? That was the question for many Tonganoxie residents. I've just touched on the real estate part that comes along with bringing this environment to our state and I know that our health and environment are the most important aspect that this will affect, but whether it's a chicken plant, chicken houses, or anything in between there is nothing good that will come from bringing these to our communities. Yes, they will bring money to the state but is the all mighty dollar more important then our families and our futures?

Joanna Eibes, Lansing KS