

Hello, my name is Brandi Haines. I am a biologist with extensive wetland experience and a Council Member for the Town of Windermere and the Towns Liaison to the Butler Chain of Lakes Advisory Board. Due to time constraints, I was not able to bring this before the Windermere Town Council for discussion prior to today's meeting. For this reason, I am here today speaking in my individual capacity. My address for the record is 835 Oakdale St Windermere FL.

In 2022, the Town of Windermere reevaluated existing setbacks for installation of swimming pools on waterfront properties within the town. After several months of discussion and consultations with our Lake Management Consultant, Orange County EPD and feedback from residents, our Town Council voted to keep the 50' foot setback from the lakes Normal High Water Elevation for any swimming pools. Our zoning regulations also require a 50 foot setback for any structure.

The Butler Chain of Lakes is an Outstanding Florida Waterway and the set back rules exist to protect and preserve the water quality from degradation. This lake system is not spring fed, which means that the water that refills the lakes is from rainfall and stormwater runoff from adjacent properties. Swimming pools are a known source of pollution to lakes and wetlands, as chlorine, salt, and algaecides are detrimental to aquatic plants and wildlife. These are public waters enjoyed by thousands of people in Orange County and they need to be protected for future generations. The County's new Wetland and Surface Water Protection Ordinance can provide these necessary protections. However, the rules need to be consistently followed in order to be effective.

The Town of Windermere prioritizes the water quality of the Butler Chain of Lakes and I hope that you all will join the Town in prioritizing the water quality of the Butler Chain and will maintain the 50 foot setback rule. I hope that you will thoroughly consider all of the information presented and deny this variance as it does not meet all of the criteria.

*Brandi Haines*      *8/26/2025*