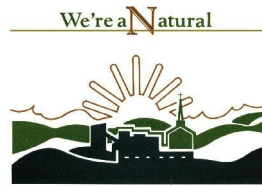


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**SCOTT COUNTY
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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
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May 13, 2024

Mr. Steve Breeding, Chairman
Russell County Board of Supervisors
137 Highland Drive
Lebanon, VA 24266

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Landfill in Russell County

Dear Russell County Officials:

The Scott County Board of Supervisors are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed private landfill at the old Moss 3 coalmine site in Russell County. While we understand the potential economic benefits for Russell County, we believe it is essential to consider the broader impact on the environment, public health, and neighboring communities.

1. Environmental Impact:

- The proximity of the landfill to Clinch River raises environmental concerns. The Clinch River is not only ecologically diverse but also a vital water resource for our region. Any contamination from the landfill could harm aquatic life, disrupt the natural ecosystem, and affect water quality downstream.
- We urge thorough assessments of potential pollution risks, including leachate leakage and groundwater contamination. The proposed landfill must be rigorously evaluated to prevent any adverse effects on the Clinch River and its surroundings.
- What are the plans for ensuring PFAS (forever chemicals) remain below EPA acceptable levels and plans for remediation if they exceed acceptable levels?
- If the water shed becomes polluted, how will Russell County help remedy or rectify the issue.

2. Health and Quality of Life:

- The landfill's operation could lead to increased truck traffic, noise pollution, and unpleasant odors. These factors may negatively affect the well-being and quality of life for residents in both counties.
- Air quality concerns arise from the transportation of waste to the landfill. Dust, emissions, and potential accidents during waste transportation could affect the health of our communities.

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3. Tourism and Outdoor Recreation:

- Scott County relies heavily on outdoor tourism and recreational activities. The Clinch River is a significant contributor to our local economy through fishing, kayaking, and other water-based activities.
- The presence of a landfill nearby could deter tourists, harm the river's appeal, and affect businesses that depend on outdoor recreation. We must prioritize the long-term sustainability of our natural resources.

4. Historical and Cultural Significance:

- The proposed site played a crucial role in labor history during the Pittston Mine Strike. Building a landfill on this historic ground would be a disservice to the memory of those who fought for worker's rights.
- We encourage preserving the site's historical significance and finding alternative solutions that honor our shared past.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that Russell County thoroughly assess the environmental impact, engage in transparent dialogue with neighboring communities, and consider our concerns. We believe that responsible decision-making will benefit both counties and protect our shared environment for future generations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We hope that our concerns will be taken into account during the decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Freda R. Starnes
County Administrator