

Town of St. Paul

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Kenneth Holbrook
Town Manager:
Chad Monday
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February 23, 2024

Russell County Board of Supervisors
137 Highland Drive
Lebanon, VA 24266

Re: Letter of Opposition – Proposed Moss 3 Landfill

Dear Honorable Members of the Russell County Board of Supervisors,

During the Town Council Meeting on February 12, 2024, Town Council voted unanimously to oppose the proposed landfill at the Moss 3 site. This decision came from numerous comments from concerned citizens, the crippling impacts on the Town's water and wastewater systems, environmental concerns, and the potential decline in Southwest Virginia's tourism market.

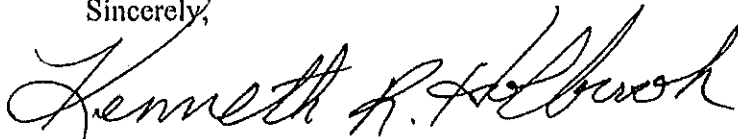
As a result, the Town of St Paul would like to formally voice their opposition for this project and kindly ask that the Russell County Board of Supervisors reject any actions to moving this project forward. If allowed, this landfill would have devastating impacts for the Town of St Paul for the following reasons:

1. **Citizen Feedback** – As a government, we all have an obligation to receive feedback from the community and to make decisions that best suit the public. As Town Council saw during its past meeting, there were multiple citizens that addressed many valid concerns. These concerns should strongly be taken into consideration in this decision.
2. **St Paul's Water and Wastewater Systems** – The Town's water supply is located downstream on the Clinch River from where the proposed landfill would be located. Any runoff from the landfill would inevitably lead into the Clinch River and negatively impact our water supply. As a Town, it is our responsibility to provide the citizens the highest quality of services, including clean drinking water. Additionally, we fear that some runoff will enter our wastewater system and would dismantle our Wastewater Treatment Plant, which Russell County has 30% compacity of, due to leachate.
3. **Environmental Concerns** – *The Clinch River is one of the most biodiverse ecosystems found on Earth.* The river is home to 48 imperiled or vulnerable species, 29 mussels, and 19 fish. The impacts of this proposed landfill would be devastating for the river and the organisms that call the Clinch home.

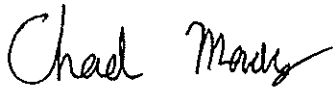
4. Decline of the Tourism Market – Preserving the pristine beauty of our region while fostering sustainable environment is paramount. Let's focus on attracting visitors by showcasing our untouched natural landscapes and eco-conscious initiatives, and steering clear of the detrimental impacts of a landfill on our region's health and environment. *Southwest Virginia is not trash* and has the most gorgeous landscapes around, is packed full of outdoor recreation opportunities, and hosts tourists from all over the world. We welcome visitors with open arms and even encourage them to call this place home. Southwest Virginia is a jewel, and it is our responsibility to protect it and to continue its growth. A landfill is not the way that we go about achieving this goal.

Once again, the Town of St Paul asks that you oppose and take any action to prohibit the creation of the Moss 3 Landfill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the number listed above.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Holbrook
Mayor, on the Behalf of Town Council



Chad Monday
Town Manager

Cc: Lonzo Lester, County Administrator
Vicky Porter, Deputy Clerk