

A letter from a concerned citizen

May 11, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently moved to Northern Georgia as part of a relocation by my company which has moved its headquarters to Atlanta. As part of our quest for the perfect location to live for the rest of our lives, my wife and I reviewed a number of potential counties and towns. Morgan County and the town of Madison quickly became a top choice due to its tranquility, peacefulness, cleanliness, beauty and abundant natural wildlife. We were also attracted by the quaint and elegant town of Madison...a town that withstood the turmoils of Civil War to survive in its natural beauty and in its historic state. Yes, this was the perfect place for our new home...our new life.

Recently, our dreams of living in a pristine location of natural beauty has been thrown into the garbage...the possibility of a landfill in our town and only five miles from our dream home. The reasons for selecting this town, this county, as our new home all to be potentially ruined. You see, I grew up in a small town that put in a landfill about 15 miles from my parents' home. It was much smaller than what this landfill is proposed to be, however I vividly remember the stench of the landfill permeating the air when the wind blew toward our home. You could see the ring of scavenger sea gulls circling the dump for miles (sea gulls are like the turkey vultures of the South eating rotten garbage). And, yes, the traffic of trucks, and residents from various towns going to the dump was horrendous. All this and the owner swore these negatives would never be an issue to the townspeople. The owner minimized all the negatives and the reality of the situation. Doesn't this sound familiar to our current situation? The application submitted for this landfill has minimized all the negatives when comparing to an actual, neighboring Georgia landfill of similar size.

I do understand the current economic situation that our town, our county and our state finds themselves. I realize that a chance to make quick money is of high interest. However, I urge all decision-makers not to be short-sighted. The long-term impact to our town and community will be significantly worse than the quick income brought in. Think of the costs of a toxic clean-up of a leaking landfill in our future. Think of the costs of polluted air and water and soil. It is a known fact that **all** landfills eventually leak. The lining eventually erodes.

Madison survived the march of General Sherman. How can we now destroy what history has preserved? How can we allow the greed of one of our town's landowners to jeopardize the well-being of all others...the value of all of our homes and property?

I urge you all...do not allow this landfill application to be approved.

Sincerely,

Scott Roy  
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Madison, Georgia