

My name is Connie Howington. I am an employee of the State of Alabama. My husband is employed by Baker Oil Tools. We own 160 acres of land in Conecuh County we use to raise cattle and hay.

One purpose of CCSA is to provide facts; this includes making citizens aware of our landfill laws. I will discuss some ADEM rules and Alabama laws which conflict with the Conecuh Woods' plans.

In one advertisement Conecuh Woods says it will meet or exceed the State and Federal standards. We know that there seems to be a lot of things in the ADEM package that Conecuh Woods may have overlooked. In particular, I will compare Alabama Law 89-824, part of the ADEM Solid Waste Management Plan, with what we know so far about this proposed landfill.

I will not bore you with reading the entire ADEM package. Let's face it—it does not read like a John Grisham novel. The first point is, and I quote, “The absence of comprehensive planning will result in the random, haphazard citing of waste disposal services without relation to the actual needs of particular localities in the State”, end quote. (j) pg.

*The Conecuh Woods investors seek to place a new landfill about 5 miles away from an existing landfill (Timberlands). This does seem somewhat random and haphazard, doesn't it?*

Next, quote, “It is the intent of this legislation to facilitate the citing of solid waste management facilities as required to meet present and projected state and local needs.” End quote. (d) pg.

*Conecuh County generates approximately 5,000 tons of solid waste per year. Our existing landfill (Timberlands) has about 20 years—maybe more—of life remaining. This is adequate to accommodate our waste. A major recycling program would add to this life span enormously.*

Third, the law is designed to, and I quote, “Encourage the state’s city and county jurisdictions to combine their efforts to manage solid wastes more efficiently.” End quote.

(5) pg 9

*When Timberlands was established, this is exactly what happened. The counties agreed that establishing Timberlands was the best plan of action. Now our neighboring counties of Monroe and Escambia have passed resolutions against a new landfill. Also, two Conecuh cities have passed an opposing resolution. CCSA sees no evidence that Conecuh Woods has considered the needs or desires of our neighbors—or even our own counties’ residents.*

Next, and I quote ADEM, “solid waste management facilities are public resources of limited and finite capacity which the state has the right and the obligation to preserve for the present and future use of its people.” End quote.

(K) pg 3

*Let’s face it—landfills are obsolete. High temperature (2,500-3,000 degrees) burning facilities are currently in use in heavily populated areas. Some areas are already using*

*the plasma conversion system. We believe Alabama's finite resources are not served by a landfill accepting a huge amount of waste from OUTSIDE of Alabama.*

Our law says, quote, "Solid waste management problems necessitate state and local action through the development and implementation of comprehensive long-range plans for solid waste management which recognize the conditions in the state." End quote.

(d) f

*We know that a new solid waste landfill has been approved for Perry County. It is on the approved list dated September 17, 2007. This landfill is approved to accept 7,500 tons of waste per day from 14 states. This landfill meets the needs of our region. There is also a landfill in Washington County that has recently been approved by their commissioners.*

We have heard nothing from Conecuh Woods about the NEEDS of our region or our state. We have no knowledge that they have talked with other Alabama counties, or if they have, what the counties have said. If and when Conecuh Woods begins to communicate, items such as: 1. A financial statement and 2. Work history needs to be presented to our citizens.

Conecuh Woods states that only "household garbage" will be accepted. Well, unfortunately I know what I have thrown away in my household garbage; and I don't believe I am any different than any other

regular household. I am trying to do better, but until an extensive recycling plan is in place, household garbage IS toxic in many ways. Our earth is designed to absorb and in most cases clean, through filtration, contaminates. But with the enormous size of this proposed landfill the quantity of toxic leachate will be a terrible burden on the earth's filtration system—even with a double liner. Eventually ALL liners leak.

In the Conecuh Woods' presentation they show a 20/20 video. John Stossel says, "We don't need to ship garbage from New York to Ohio". We agree. Especially since there have been two derailments in the Castleberry area recently. What if this would have been a trainload of garbage from who knows where—would it contain hazardous material?

I have one final comment. A few nights ago my husband and I were coming back from Flomaton on the Interstate. When we came to the Conecuh County line the stench was so bad from Timberlands—even with the air conditioner running—that it was almost unbearable. We believe this is caused by the recycling of the collected leachate. Considering this proposed landfill will be approximately twelve times larger, how far will the stink go?