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Landfill approval measure deserves passage

The struggles for landfill control in Alabama are legendary. People in Lowndes County have fought off various types of landfills for 20 years. The people of Lowndes County came together and beat the odds.

Folks in Conecuh County are on the verge of getting a huge landfill, on the edge of the Lower Conecuh River Basin.

The typical process used by landfill developers is that they come to a county government with a sophisticated dog and pony show, promise lots of jobs and tax revenue, and spread money around the usually low-income communities of color to buy acceptance.

Current Alabama law says that local host government must approve proposed landfills, but the law also says if that local host government does not act within 90 days of the landfill application, that application is automatically approved. Sen. Wendell Mitchell has introduced Senate Bill 72, which will remedy that unfairness.

It is the bill's third year in the Legislature, but for the past two years the bill got approval from both the Senate and House committees.

This year, landfill lobbyists are swarming out of the woodwork to stop this bill. They are many in number and well funded.

Sen. Mitchell and Rep. James Thomas should be commended for introducing this legislation. Now we will see who wins this battle, the lobbyists or the people.

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