

RE: Jackson Law Public Hearing, SMS, June 2, 2009
Honorable Cumberland County Mayor, Brock Hill,
County Commissioners:

Just last month the Cumberland County Budget committee voted to again fund the Crossville/Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce \$7,543 for it's "Retire to Tennessee" program, whereby, a Chamber employee told me, they go "all over the country" to encourage retirees to move here. It's been working. Many of us did, including some of the residents of Smith Mountain Road in Cumberland County. The clean air and water, lack of big city traffic, quiet woods and streams, friendly people and mountain vistas are all part of the mix. The people on Smith Mountain Road found their "perfect spot to retire," "our little bit of heaven," "a quiet place to raise our kids."

They built their homes, created ponds, put in expensive driveways and some have wells. They invested in Cumberland County. Their children go to our schools, and school buses stop to pick up and drop off children on their daily runs. There is no alternate route for them to take.

I have driven this road twice from exit 340 to the mine. In places there is fresh gravel at the edge of the recently graded road that passing cars are likely to hit, sending up a spray of dust. This county road with no center line has blind curves, precipitous drop-offs, and except for one narrow bridge, no guard rails. That narrow bridge over Crab Orchard Creek is barely adequate for two passenger cars, much less a three axle truck carrying fly ash and a school bus full of children. It is not hard to imagine an accident on that road and the impasse and calamity it would create. In fact, one long time resident told me of a coal truck which ran off the road and barely missed his neighbor's pond. Another barely missed him as he turned into his driveway.

Rumor has it that Cumberland County anticipates revenue of \$2 million for this Class One landfill permit. As a Cumberland County Taxpayer, I say we are getting a bad deal. The risk of one leak in the liner, one fatal accident, one overturned truck polluting earth, air and water is just not worth it. Our reputation as the fly-ash dump for TVA will never be repaired. No amount of money will fix it.

The Jackson Law says you must consider the impact on property values and compatibility with other land uses nearby which are residential. This proposal already has been devastating to our friends and fellow taxpayers residing on Smith Mountain Road, who have seen their dreams turn to a nightmare. It will certainly degrade their quality of life in our beautiful County. Let them keep their "Retire to Tennessee" dream.

We count on you to protect the people of Cumberland County: all the people, all the time.

I ask that this be made part of the public record.

Margery Otto Buxbaum
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