

Statement to the Board of County Commissioners  
On the Waste Transfer Station (Agenda Item 6A)  
January 22, 2009

My name is Bonnie Hauser and I am speaking on behalf of Orange County Voice.

I suspect, from your emails, that you already know that many people are firmly against allowing this industrial application in a rural residential area. Tonight I'd like to offer, for the record, information on an economically feasible alternative – using a transfer station from a leading waste management vendor. We have confirmed services and prices from three local vendors and believe that any of these vendors can offer quality service and save Orange County millions of dollars.

The vendors we spoke to all operate transfer stations in Durham with rates that range from \$40 to \$50 a ton. From our estimates, that's \$10 to \$20 a ton less than it will cost us to build and operate a similar facility. It includes the costs to haul the waste long distance and dump it into a landfill. At 240 tons a day and 312 days a year that's millions of dollars – and would easily pay for many things that we need -- including the long promised amenities for the Roger's Road community

...One of the reasons the vendor costs are so much lower, is that their transfer stations cost much less to build than the one we are considering -- between \$1 and 2 million (versus the \$7-10 million that's estimated for ours). Also, since they handle much larger volumes – their day to day operating costs are lower.

The vendors are ready and waiting to propose services to Orange County. They offer 6 month or multi-year contracts and have even offered to allow us to pilot their services. They have sufficient capacity to serve us for 20 years or more. No new facilities would need to be built.

Our report has nothing to do with neighborhood collection – pickup at homes and businesses. Collection would continue as it's done today by the municipalities and private vendors. As you know, today the private vendors handle roughly half of the neighborhood collection. The only difference is that the collection trucks would go to the vendor's transfer station in Durham instead of ours in the rural county.

I submit our report for the record and would be happy to review our findings with Mr Wilson and help in any way that we can.

We can't say whether the vendors offer the right long term solution for Orange County -- but they can certainly offer flexibility and quality service – on an interim basis - until we sort through our options for better sites and a sustainable solution such as waste to energy.

As a side note - I'd like to clarify a comment from yesterday's News of Orange – our group has no interest in prolonging the life of the Eubanks landfill – we simply believe that a gradual transition to using vendor might be easier for the county than a sharp cutover. Like you, we want the landfill closed, and hope that you will consider deeding the landfill closed forever.

So please – our resources are limited, budgets are tight and we have much to do. We can't afford to waste our people, time or money, and get sidetracked with an expensive, interim waste transfer station that we don't need. We have better alternatives. Let the vendors handle our waste for now and let's get moving on a sustainable waste to energy solution that we can all be proud of.

Thank you