

December 8, 2009

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you again for deciding to send the county's trash to Durham -- at least for now. Last night you took an important first step to find solid waste solutions for our future.

Our support for Mr. Clifton is sincere. We hope to be on his side of most issues. At least we're a little more confident that our fact-based advocacy *might* help shape his views.

We are also thrilled that the majority of you voted to keep landfills out of Orange County - which we see as a vote for the rural community and for the environment. We especially appreciate the candor that Mr. Jacobs brought to that discussion and would add that there is no place for polluting landfills in Orange County's future.

We hope that you find a way into new opportunities as you work with Durham. Their 1000 ton a day solid waste stream and 20% recycling recovery rates provide an important opportunity for the county to expand the scale and impact of our recycling programs. Of course, working with Durham also opens a channel to regional solutions and starting North Carolina on a path to forward-looking alternatives to landfills.

For us, the door is now open to be "for" something. Until now, our resources have been exhausted defending our rural communities from misinformed decision-making. We have found our voice and are prepared to work with you and others to use it in ways that are informed and proactive -- including developing long-term options for waste management which we believe should be expanded to include biosolids.

We look forward to continuing to talk trash with you at your meeting next week.

Have a nice day.

Sincerely,

***Bonnie***

**Bonnie Hauser, President**

**Orange County Voice**

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*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. - Margaret Mead*