

OCV Statement to the BoCC on the WTS
December 7, 2009

I'm Bonnie Hauser of Orange County Voice and I'll be our only speaker tonight. We appreciate the time you've taken over the last year to hear our comments. Here's a recap:

We continue to strongly oppose the Bingham site - *It's too far, there's no water/sewer, there are road safety issues and acres of wetlands that should have disqualified the site from the start - you already know that.*

We also oppose the Paydarfar site - *not only because of the issues raised by the community but because, like Bingham, it's too expensive and it's an investment in models of the past.*

None of the options you are considering conform to the Olver process. *But that's not an issue, because we all know that the process was flawed and compromised. Given the changes in our economy and other factors, it's no longer relevant.*

Then there are the economics – *once the landfill closes, the county will no longer make money on trash. Now is the time to re-think how to handle it -- including how any option will impact taxes and fees.*

Finally, the interlocal agreement needs to be reexamined in the light of changing conditions. *What was designed at one time to manage the landfill has inadvertently become a mechanism to dump in-town trash on out-of-town communities.*

We don't want to belabor the shortfalls of the last 2 years. We're concerned about the next 20.

The situation is changing --- We're all better informed, and with Mr. Clifton as Manager, the staff now has the leadership to correct the missed opportunities of the past.

We now know that there are options that are cheaper, greener, and more flexible than Bingham or Paydarfar, and that would not burden any community. Most importantly, these options begin to build a solid waste infrastructure for Orange County's future. We are prepared to discuss them in the context of a new and better informed process.

Tonight we respectfully ask that you choose Durham as an interim solution and that you restart the process so that we can benefit from what we've learned over the last 2 years. Durham is cheaper than either site, and it gives Orange County time to work through better options for the long term.

*We respectfully ask that you choose Durham for the benefit of every Orange County Community and that you **not** rely on a process that seemed designed to divide us from the start.*

Please vote tonight to use Durham for the short term and start us on a path to a responsible waste management.

Thank you for considering our view. Again, Orange County Voice will have no other speakers tonight but if you look around the room and in the overflow areas, residents are wearing stickers to show their support for our statement.

Good luck in your deliberations and if you choose Durham, we are committed to work with you, SWAB and other community groups to get this right.

Thank you.