

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Headline: People For Clean Mountains Urges Moratorium on Biomass Facility**

People For Clean Mountains (PCM) has called on Transylvania County Commissioners to enact a moratorium for 18 months on any further development of the proposed Penrose biomass facility.

“There is an emerging body of evidence that a facility like the one proposed can pose significant public health risks while also hurting the county’s economic recovery and development,” says Danna Smith, a PCM volunteer.

“In light of mounting research and the concerns of so many citizens, the commissioners need time to really understand the full range of costs associated with the proposed biomass facility,” says Smith. “Enacting a moratorium now would allow time for the commissioners to more fully understand what’s at stake before it’s too late and permits have been issued.”

This week, PCM also presented the commissioners and other government leaders with numerous questions that remain unanswered by Renewable Developers, the developers of the proposed project.

“We have taken the concerns of hundreds of citizens who have turned out for public meetings over the past weeks and compiled their questions,” says Smith. “We want to work together with our county leaders to get answers, but more time is needed.”

PCM provided commissioners with a proposed Transylvania County Ordinance Amendment that gives county commissioners authority to place a moratorium on permitting and construction of polluting industries, including the proposed biomass facility for a period up to 18 months.

PCM also is launching a petition drive in conjunction with the request for a moratorium. Transylvania County citizens can support the call for a moratorium by signing the petition, which will be available at many locations throughout the county.

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Visit [peopleforcleanmountains.org](http://peopleforcleanmountains.org) for a list of petition locations.

As defined, polluting industries would include those that cause air pollution and objectionable levels of noise, odors, vibrations, fumes, light, smoke, or other physical manifestations that may have an adverse effect on the health, safety or general welfare of the citizens of the county. Other North Carolina counties have enacted similar ordinances.

The questions compiled by PCM accompanied notebooks that PCM prepared for county leaders including background information, research and scientific studies that relate to the operations and potential impact of biomass facilities.

“The info packets we have put together are an attempt to assist county government officials in their quest for knowledge and the truth,” says Kevin Glenn, a PCM volunteer who helped compile the data. “We, as part of the community, feel strongly that understanding the ramifications of this proposal is crucial. A moratorium is essential to this process.”

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