

PERSON COUNTY PRIDE

Person County People Rising In Defense of Ecology
A chapter of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2016

CONTACTS:

Frances Blalock (336) 364-2717

Pat Hill (336) 504-7771

Jason Torian (336) 599-6716

Lou Zeller (336) 977-0852

Person County PRIDE Calls for Megadump Closure New Report Details Cost Saving Alternative

Today Person County PRIDE launched a new campaign calling for an end to decades of solid waste imports into Person County and establishing a two county agreement with Granville County tailored to reduce waste and lower costs. In the report released today, "Wasted: A Call for Person County to End its Relationship with Republic Services," PC PRIDE called upon the Person County Board of Commissioners to 1) terminate the county's franchise agreement, 2) open a drop-off station, and 3) direct haul waste to Granville County's landfill. The group said the ending of commercial waste imports would reduce the county's waste stream by 83% and allow the county to manage waste in better, more cost effective ways.

Frances Blalock, a founder of PC PRIDE, said, "The commissioners must reject the franchise agreement with Republic based on the four facts of finding in the Planning Board Ordinance; specifically, the commercial landfill:

1. Materially endangers the public health and safety of the citizens
2. Does not abide by required conditions and regulations. They allow activities that break rules when no one is looking.
3. Injured the value of adjoining or abutting property, and is not a public necessity because there is a better option.
4. Is not in harmony with the area in which it is to be located. It has proven to be a nuisance.

Pat Hill, co-president of PC PRIDE, said, "It's simple to google Republic Services and see how badly they treat both their employees and citizens residing around their dumps. Why would Person County want to continue to do business with a company

with such a sorry reputation?

Speaking about cost factors, Jason Torian, PC PRIDE board member, said, "We believe the closure of the megadump should coincide with the introduction of a curbside recycling program." Citing costs analysis done for the county, he added, "Studies show that Roxboro could realize annual savings of \$113,000 with a recycling program."

Lou Zeller, executive director of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, detailed the company's track record, concluding, "Republic is a bad actor, Person County would be better off handling trash on its own." Zeller said that during just the last two years, numerous violations have occurred: African-American employees in Atlanta filed U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission charges against Republic for overtime favoritism; Republic owes landfill workers in California nearly \$2.6 million in back pay due to underpayment of workers by \$5 to \$7 per hour, Republic was forced pay \$6.5 million to workers in Massachusetts after overcharging them for health insurance.

PC PRIDE will put its plan before the Board of Commissioners at their next meeting on July 18th.

In 2005 PC PRIDE led the campaign to reject a proposal by Republic to expand the landfill, winning with a unanimous 5-0 vote by the Person County Board of Commissioners.

-end-

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

www.BREDL.org PO Box 88 Glendale Springs, North Carolina 28629 BREDL@skybest.com (336) 982-2691

Printed on 100% post-consumer, recycled paper processed without chlorine using 43% less energy, 49% less water and creating 36% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than non-recycled paper.