

BURNT

Solid Waste Reform Effort In Tennessee Called “Tacky, Embarrassing, & Bad Government”

In 1991, *BURNT* first went to the State Legislature **to support** proposed solid waste reform in Tennessee. The 25% diversion from landfills and incinerators was far ahead of what we were getting in Nashville.

In 1996, *BURNT* was the only group to oppose the gutting of the 1991 Solid Waste Act by TDEC and the County Governments by the very peculiar crediting of landfilled construction waste toward the 25% diversion goal.

Tennessee is the ONLY state with this bizarre law.

In 2007, Governor Phil Bredesen sponsored *SB 2267/HB 2289* which required greater state government recycling, solid waste reform, and clean up of landfills which polluted ground water. Knowing TDEC, *BURNT* opposed this but lost.

BURNT President Bruce Wood and Vice President R C Bartlett have attended almost every meeting of the State Solid Waste Disposal Board, the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and the State Solid Waste Reduction Task Force [Wood was a member of the *Waste Reduction Task Force*] since solid waste reform in Tennessee began after 2007. Usually, Mr. Bartlett is the only black person in the room. The most recent meeting of the ‘Solid Waste Advisory

Committee’ typifies the TDEC ram rodded process. The committee chair is a dedicated proponent of all things landfill. There has never been any public testimony before any of the three bodies. Except for two meetings of the “Task Force” in Murfreesboro, no meeting has been held outside Nashville. Even though the proposed regulations are very landfill friendly [good for the ‘industry’], no one discusses the horrific record of TDEC in permitting and regulating landfills—Dickson County, Coffee County, expansion of Middle Point and Smith County, and East Tennessee landfills built on leaky karst geology. Not to mention the increase in unlined Class IV Construction Waste landfills from 12 in the early 1990's to almost 80 today.

Only BURNT mentions the \$350 million [\$350,000,000] ‘unfunded local mandate’ spent by local governments and business to landfill solid waste.

Finally, TDEC has created a landfill and solid waste system with very imprecise numbers. The all white “Solid Waste Reduction Task Force”, comprised primarily of local solid waste managers, voted unanimously that Tennessee solid waste numbers do not reflect reality.

QUESTIONS: Why is TDEC so desperate to feed a landfill system which has been so bad for the poor and minority who live near the landfills? Why hasn't TDEC evaluated how to create jobs and business by managing the resources in solid waste?

Please see attached material distributed to the "State Solid Waste Advisory Committee" on Tuesday, 14 April 2009