

*Log to
miller*

RUSH TOWNSHIP
P.O. Box 152
Phillipsburg, PA 16866
Phone: (814) 342-0514 – Fax: (814) 342-0218
Email: rushtownship@iqnetsys.net

June 19, 2006

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

RE: Resource Recovery Landfill

Dear Governor Rendell:

Greetings from Rush Township, Centre County.

My experiences as a Rush Township supervisor since 1984 and the many years I have dedicated to being an educator have led me to the firm belief that one of the essential roles of government is to assist in providing opportunities for its citizens. It is also clear that private initiative and industry have been a crucial driving force that has led to the economic system and security that many individuals enjoy today. In Rush Township we have been working with Resource Recovery, LLC (Resource) in a public/private development partnership, which will offer new economic opportunities for our region, increase our tax base, and remediate and protect our environment.

This letter is written to impress upon you how important this development partnership is to Rush Township, my constituents, and to the citizens of the Moshannon Valley. While some have expressed displeasure that our Township has worked with Resource in advancing an industrial development project to be sited within a portion of our township, we believe that the positives derived from the project will benefit our area and Pennsylvania as a whole.

In many regions of this fine Commonwealth, citizens are challenged to find the means to provide for their families, promote opportunities for future generations, and enhance their local communities. Rush Township and the greater Moshannon Valley region of western Centre County are no different. In recent months our citizens have been buffeted by the bankruptcy and closing of the Phillipsburg Hospital, discovered that the Phillipsburg-Osceola School District faces a multi-million dollar budget shortfall beginning July, 2006, and realized that our Township struggles to find an extra \$75,000.00 for our \$400,000.00 general operating budget to implement a much needed sanitary sewer extension.

Over the years many have been witness to the declining prosperity of our local economy as easily obtained natural resources, especially coal and timber have been consumed. As a result our population has also declined and business development has stagnated.

Rush Township's public contribution to this partnership with Resource includes approving a comprehensive plan for our township several months ago. The comprehensive plan includes an industrial enterprise zone in the northern portion of our township for the siting of Resource's development project. Our Planning Commission is working diligently on the proposed Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances needed to implement the comprehensive plan.

Resource has moved forward with its initiative to create a municipal solid waste landfill and a new interchange along Interstate 80. The Phase I Landfill Permit Application has been submitted to the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Protection, and the Interstate 80 Point of Access Study has been submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. These permit applications are the culmination of extensive studies, evaluation, and planning that have been conducted over the last two plus years. Resource has invested millions of dollars to date; and their commitment to the process is ongoing, as Phase II Landfill permit work continues. Estimated 2006 construction costs for the landfill and interchange total \$73 million. Resource has not received, nor have they requested, any public funding to offset the expense of these significant infrastructure costs. Resource's desire is to facilitate the development of a state-of-the-art waste to energy facility that our region and the Commonwealth will tout as a progressive step toward comprehensive, innovative solid waste management.

Not only has the consumption and subsequent reuse of natural resources and the recovery of energy been headline news lately, these issues will play an ever increasing role in our collective ability to use natural resources wisely. Anchored by a state-of-the-art municipal solid waste landfill, Resource's development initiative goes beyond being only a landfill development. The larger picture is one in which the energy and infrastructure base constructed for the landfill operation also serves as a catalyst for related and associated technologies and enterprises developed in this new industrial enterprise zone. The landfill requires completion of a sizeable wastewater treatment system, the development of a potable water supply, and requires that electric power be brought to the site. Other industrial enterprise tenants can use this infrastructure as well.

These industrial enterprise tenants will also benefit from the energy and power created as the landfill's gas collection system captures methane gas produced from the naturally occurring degradation of landfill waste. With plans now

underway, a bio-diesel fuel plant will be just one of potentially many applications that could make effective use of landfill generated methane to operate its production facility. Other potential users of the landfill's energy production could include recycling and manufacturing operations that use recycled material as major components in new products. We see the landfill operation, its infrastructure, and its by-products serving as an economic catalyst for varied manufacturing and waste conversion operations.

The preferred access to the landfill site is via a new, privately funded interchange from Interstate 80. This access route will eliminate the need to use state and local roads through our communities. Other industrial users would be part of a larger industrial park development adjoining the landfill and utilizing convenient access to the I-80 transportation corridor while also making use of the landfill infrastructure and its energy production. I know that the long-term success of this economic development initiative depends, in part, upon having direct access to I-80. The location of past development efforts at the Township's Regional Airport Park and KOZ area have been unsuccessful as transportation access is seen as a challenge. I have no doubt that the citizens of Rush Township will directly benefit from a new, privately funded interchange.

The economic advantages are numerous. Real estate taxes that will be paid to local entities, waste disposal, host and impact fees that will be distributed to Pennsylvania, Rush and other surrounding townships, and negotiated payments to environmental organizations amount to hundreds of millions of dollars over the life of the entire development. Payments collected from Resource's fully operational landfill development, on a yearly basis, will be approximately \$1.2 million for the Phillipsburg-Osceola School District, \$200,000 for Centre County, \$9.7 million for the Commonwealth, \$5.0 million for Rush Township, \$750,000 for Snow Shoe Township, and \$150,000 for the Moshannon Creek Watershed Coalition. The relative size of these payments to current operating budgets is significant for many of these entities. Please note that none of these dollar amounts include any local, state, or federal income taxes on wages or the ultimate value of assets constructed or wages paid within other areas of the industrial park development.

There are citizens, many of whom live beyond the Moshannon Valley, who are completely against the landfill. These folks are relatively few in number, but they have been outspoken in their opposition. It would not be surprising to learn that the standard form letters received by your office and by other departments, in opposition to one or more aspects of Resource's plan, have outnumbered those sent in support of the project. Many of the people who signed letters of opposition have expressed their regret at having done so, citing their lack of

knowledge of today's landfill technology. They have recanted their opposition, indicating that they are opposed to the old fashioned "dump" which is a misrepresentation cultivated by a small group of opponents with their own agenda. The public discourse by opponents may be characterized as disingenuous, using inaccurate information and sensationalized, out-of-context statements reported by the printed media as accurate and based upon fact. The fervor whipped up by some opposition leaders cite studies, construction standards, and compliance problems that are often twenty to thirty years old. As you know, new technology, refined construction methods, and stricter enforcement actions have dramatically changed solid waste disposal methods and practices since the 1970's. Today, modern landfills use multiple liner systems, capture and process gas and liquid leachate, and landfill sites are monitored daily by licensed professionals. The economic, geological, and geographic merits of the potential development site are extremely favorable for Resource's intended use. Studies mandated by DEP and PennDOT substantiate this conclusion.

Another supervisor and I have had the opportunity to tour several different landfill facilities within the Commonwealth. We have availed ourselves of detailed, current information regarding landfills and waste management practices. This information has convinced us that the Resource landfill development with its associated additional development projects will be a tremendous net benefit to our region and its citizens. The landfill development will serve to alleviate acid mine drainage and site erosion problems currently existing on parts of this industrial enterprise zone acreage. Some of this acreage consists of abandoned mine sites with open cuts that were never reclaimed. They have been in existence for over half a century. This site is not the pristine land that some would have us believe. The landfill and interchange development will also serve as an example of your Growing Greener II initiative and will be a step toward achieving your PennSecurity Fuels Initiative. We strongly believe that this project, with all of its possibilities for waste to energy production and economic opportunities, could be one that the region would be proud to have as a neighbor.

Recognizing that Rush Township cannot afford to miss out on this public/private development partnership opportunity, we have taken active measures to promote the process. Your support of Resource Recovery LLC's landfill application and the company's Point of Access Study would be invaluable in allowing the approval process to proceed in a timely manner with the review process based upon the merits and intended use of this industrial enterprise zone site. Government should not attempt to manage economies and economic performance. However, through the fair, even handed, impartial issuance and enforcement of laws, ordinances, and regulations, government can encourage business leaders and entrepreneurs to undertake economic development risks.

Governor Edward G. Rendell – Page 5

that will provide benefits for many. Rush Township has that opportunity in working with Resource for the benefit of its citizens.

We thank you for your time and consideration of my thoughts and observations, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss them more fully with you or to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully yours,
RUSH TOWNSHIP



JOHN "JACK" A. SHANNON
Chairman



PATRICK E. COUTURIAUX,
Vice Chairman

CC: Kathleen A. McGinty, Secretary, DEP
Allen D. Bichler, Secretary Penn DOT



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

208 West Third Street, Suite 101
Williamsport, PA 17701-6448
July 7, 2006

Northcentral Regional Office

Fax 570-327-3565

Mr. John Shannon, Chairman
Mr. Patrick Couturiaux, Vice Chairman
Rush Township
P.O. Box 152
Phillipsburg, PA 16866

Dear Messrs. Shannon and Couturiaux:

Thank you for your recent correspondence to Governor Rendell. I have been asked to respond to your letter.

On behalf of the Governor, please let me assure you that he does understand your concerns about the economic well being of your township, your constituents, and to the citizens of the Moshannon Valley. He can appreciate your position regarding the economic impact the proposed Resource Recovery Landfill in Rush Township, Centre County could have. The permitting of the proposed landfill and the associated proposed I-80 interchange must go through a lengthy permitting process. The benefits you speak of in your letter will be considered. However, the harms of the project must also be considered. Harms include negative economic, environmental, and social impacts. Please be assured that both the staff of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PADOT) will evaluate Resource Recovery LLC's permit applications without bias.

I would like to assure you that as the manager in charge of the office conducting the review of the Municipal Waste Landfill permit application, we will consider your concerns in our review of the permit application. I am confident that PADOT will also consider your comments outlined in your letter during their review of the Point Of Access Study.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me by e-mail at jamesmill@state.pa.us or by phone at 570-327-3740.

Sincerely,

James E. Miller
Environmental Program Manager
Waste Management

