



October 11, 2023

Rutherford County Commission Member:

For many years the leadership of the municipalities in Rutherford County have worked together to come up with solutions for our municipal solid waste. We are writing in support of the City of Murfreesboro's request for County approval of a potential biogas facility to be located at 2120 Butler Drive.

In 2018, the County's Solid Waste Vision Document was prepared in conjunction with a County-wide coalition of members from Smyrna, LaVergne, Eagleville, Murfreesboro, and Rutherford County, established as a Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). That Vision Document describes the need for a northern and southern transfer station to serve the future needs of Rutherford County in disposing of its trash once Middle Point Landfill closes. In September 2021, Murfreesboro purchased the property to use as a transfer station in anticipation of the future closure of Republic's Middle Point Landfill. Murfreesboro's initiative to construct a possible solid waste processing facility at the proposed location is consistent with the long-term goals and vision developed by the SWAC. This potential facility, if built, could be utilized by all the municipalities and residents of our county.

We do not believe the expansion of Middle Point Landfill is the best option for Rutherford County citizens. We do not believe accepting over 70% outside trash is a viable option for our respective communities. Alternatives to landfilling, such as those sought by Murfreesboro, are essential for our communities' sustainability and independence in managing our communities' solid waste. For example, the proposed biogas facility has the potential to divert 90% of the trash it receives or 126,000 tons per year while producing fuels under the Federal Guidelines regulating renewable fuel standards. It is our understanding that the site at Butler Drive is being developed by Murfreesboro in adherence to strict design standards intended to protect the environment and the public welfare.

We urge the County to support Murfreesboro's advancing its alternative waste disposal solution as one means to address the solid waste needs of our entire County and cities.

Respectfully,

Shane McFarland
Mayor, City of Murfreesboro

Joe Carr
Mayor, Rutherford County

Mary Esther Reed
Mayor of Smyrna

Jason Cole
Mayor of LaVergne

Chad Leeman
Mayor of Eagleville