



Van Buren County Administrative & Justice Facility
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September 18, 2024

State of Tennessee
Department of Environment and Conservation
Division of Water Resources
John Newberry
Davy Crockett Tower
500 James Robertson Parkway, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243-1102

Dear Mr. Newberry:

I am the current County Mayor of Van Buren County. I have an obligation, on behalf of the citizens I serve, to voice our concerns pertaining to Biosolids/Human Waste being used as free fertilizer in Tennessee. We respect our farming communities and want them to utilize safe farming practices to yield the highest possible profit. The County Commissioners and I have received many complaints concerning the use of Human Waste on the land.

Our question to TDEC is why permit the spreading of human waste while knowing the unknown and untested chemicals will saturate the soil, natural water tributaries, drinking water? Does this not potentially create an unhealthy environment for growing food, for animals and our residents?

The stated concerns include:

- 1) Smell (The smell lingers and covers several miles. Once the smell settles and it rains, the odor strengthens again.)
- 2) Increase in Chronic Diseases (Heart Problems, Respiratory concerns, Gastrological Problems, Multiple Types of Cancer Diagnoses/Death. We have several families that have been affected by cancer and crohns with multiple family members in the same household being affected.)
- 3) Contractors follow policy when delivering Bio solids. (Disregard for flags in "no spread zones" and dump date and spread date exceeds the 45-day minimum. We have residents that document when Biosolids are delivered and spread. Not to mention one of the last fields had waste over 180+ days before it was spread! Chattanooga's Moccasin Bend Plant cares nothing more than getting the waste out!) If it is so safe, just keep it there & in your surrounding counties.

We cannot allow the Upper Cumberland environment to be contaminated with unknown substances that could possibly be detrimental to the health of our soil, water sources, animal/plant health and our citizens health. Providing adequate testing and extended research of PFAS and any other known contaminants before permitting the distribution of these Bio solids would provide our residents with peace of mind and eliminate future repercussions.

Respectfully submitted,

David Sullivan
Van Buren County Mayor