

SGA Bill 1-22-S
A Bill To Take A Stance On The Middle Point Landfill Expansion

Whereas: Republic Services has put in a request to expand the Middle Point Landfill in Murfreesboro. Their request was denied, and Republic Services is suing the Central Tennessee Solid Waste Planning Board as well as the city of Murfreesboro as a result.¹

Whereas: This is an issue that pertains to the broader Murfreesboro community, therefore it is our responsibility as student leaders to take a stand on this issue as it could negatively affect the student body.²

Whereas: The Middle Point Landfill continually produces foul odors that bother students.³

Whereas: The Middle Point Landfill has been used as a dumpsite for toxic aluminum waste and radioactive medical waste.⁴

Whereas: Expanding the landfill can cause sanitation and health issues as waste can contaminate water supplies and air quality.⁵

Whereas: The Student Government Association has a responsibility to represent the concerns and affairs of the student body given the landfill affects the health and wellbeing of the student body.⁶

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE 84TH CONGRESS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:

Section 1: The Student Government Association shall stand in firm opposition against the expansion of the Middle Point Landfill in solidarity with the City of Murfreesboro.

Section 2: The Student Government Association shall have a presence at the two public hearings regarding the expansion in solidarity with the Murfreesboro community as well as the student body of MTSU.

Section 3: The Executive Cabinet will release an official statement demonstrating SGA's support of the Central Tennessee Solid Waste Planning Board's decision to deny Republic Services' request to expand the Middle Point Landfill upon the passage of this resolution.

¹ See Appendix A

² See Appendix B

³ See Appendix C

⁴ See Appendix D

⁵ See Appendix E

⁶ See Appendix F

Sponsors: Ashton Beatty, Logan McVey, Kap Paul, Jason Wasilewski



Speaker of the Senate



SGA President



VP of Student Affairs

Appendix A

Whereas: Republic Services has put in a request to expand the Middle Point Landfill in Murfreesboro. Their request was denied, and Republic Services is suing the Central Tennessee Solid Waste Planning Board as well as the city of Murfreesboro as a result.

“In July, the Board denied Republic’s proposal to construct a new landfill adjacent to its current operations at Middle Point. After that decision, Republic, through its subsidiary BFI Waste Systems of Tennessee, filed a lawsuit to overturn the Board’s unanimous decision. The city joined that lawsuit in November. On December 3rd, the Board and the City asked the Court to reopen the landfill expansion proceedings to hear new information that the city recently pieced together from records at the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation (TDEC).”

- Article Published by WGNIS radio

Source: <https://www.wgnradio.com/article/72390/murfreesboro-joins-legal-battle-over-the-creation-of-a-new-landfill-adjacent-to-middle-point-landfill-and-realizes-initial-success>

Appendix B

Whereas: This is an issue that pertains to the broader Murfreesboro community, therefore it is our responsibility as student leaders to take a stand on this issue that could negatively affect the student body.

“In recent years, the landfill has been the subject of hundreds of odor complaints from members of the community. Most of those complaints, however, have been directed to BFI or to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.”

- Article published by the Murfreesboro Voice

Source: <https://www.murfreesborovoice.com/article/5641/whats-up-with-the-landfill-stink>

Appendix C

Whereas: The Middle Point Landfill continually produces foul odors that bother students.

“In recent years, the landfill has been the subject of hundreds of odor complaints from members of the community. Most of those complaints, however, have been directed to BFI or to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.”

- Article published by the Murfreesboro Voice

Source: <https://www.murfreesborovoice.com/article/5641/whats-up-with-the-landfill-stink>

Appendix D

Whereas:

The Middle Point Landfill has been used as a dumpsite for toxic aluminum waste and radioactive medical waste.

“The additional evidence, which was recently discovered and pieced together by the City, relates to industrial aluminum waste buried in the landfill from the mid-1990s until 2007. Whether the Board should be allowed to consider this information had become a central issue in the lawsuit.”

- Published as news on the City of Murfreesboro website

“The city also cited its own investigation into state environmental records that show the landfill accepted large amounts of industrial waste containing aluminum dross in addition to the household trash routinely trucked into the site. The city alleges that the amount of aluminum waste, or aluminum dross — a byproduct in the aluminum industry — is significant, that its presence in the dump contributes to noxious odors and potentially dangerous consequences and that Republic Services “has long been aware of the effects of this waste in terms of atypical gasses, odors and leachate (the runoff from landfills).”

- Article published by the Tennessee Lookout

“Ten years ago, when Murfreesboro residents learned the state had approved the dumping of low-level radioactive waste at a local landfill, a fierce community backlash swiftly put an end to the practice.

Today, Tennessee citizens have no way to find out how much low-level radioactive waste is going into other landfills.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, or TDEC, has wiped that data from its website and said it is confidential.

Asked why, TDEC spokesman Eric Ward cited a ten-year-old state law the agency has just begun referencing to deny information.

TDEC's withholding of information which has, for years, been open to the public comes at the same time that companies in Tennessee have filed notice they plan to import up to 10,000 metric tons - or more than 22 million pounds - of low-level nuclear waste from Canada for processing.”

- Article Published by The Tennessean

Sources on aluminum waste:

<https://www.murfreesborotn.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=3623>

<https://tennesseelookout.com/2021/12/22/nashville-judge-issues-setback-to-middle-point-landfill-expansion-plans/>

Source on radioactive waste:

<https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/2017/11/20/tennessee-nuclear-radioactive-waste-details/839511001/>

Appendix E

Whereas: Expanding the landfill can cause sanitation and health issues as waste can contaminate water supplies and air quality.

“Solid waste is disposed of in thousands of municipal and industrial landfills throughout the country. Chemicals that should be disposed of in haz-ardous waste landfills sometimes end up in munic-ipal landfills. In addition, the disposal of manyhousehold wastes is not regulated. Once in the landfill, chemicals can leach into the ground water by means of precipitation and sur-face runoff.”

- Environmental Protection Agency Report

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-08/documents/mgwc-gwcl.pdf>

Appendix F

Whereas: The Student Government Association has a responsibility to represent the concerns and affairs of the student body given the landfill affects the health and wellbeing of the student body.

“The purpose of the SGA is to provide a formal process for student input into the governance of the institution, to control all matters which are delegated to the SGA by the administration of Middle Tennessee State University (the University), to work cooperatively in the administration in all matters affecting the welfare of the student body, and to promote the best possible understanding between faculty, administration, and students. In all its endeavors, the SGA shall strive to represent the best interest of the student body as a whole and to reflect favorably upon the University.”

- SGA Constitution Article 1 Section 2

