

From:

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To:

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May 9, 2022

Regarding: File #2021 RES-440-Please vote NO to Authorizing the Purchase of Yahara Hills Land for County Landfill

County Board Members,

Please vote "NO" to Authorizing the Purchase of Yahara Hills Land for the proposed Dane County Landfill.

I have followed the proposal from its onset and feel obligated to speak up at this time. The residents of Dane County deserve to have alternative landfill sites considered before authorizing the purchase of Yahara Hills Land. Unfortunately, more appropriate locations were never really studied or contemplated. This must be done now, before approving the purchase of Yahara Hills Land.

The public frustration and disappointment over the handling of the proposed landfill is not limited to just NIMBY residents – "Not in My Back Yard". I understand their outrage considering the ethically questionable manner in which the proposal was named, marketed, and quietly rushed towards realization. The proposed design has yet to be tested anywhere else so close to a densely populated area so there are many unknowns regarding the full impact to the quality of life, health and safety, and property value of nearby residents.

I was born and raised in Wisconsin, hold a B. S. Degree in Landscape Architecture and an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Wisconsin, and currently reside in Dane County. Although I have no emotional attachment to the land to be purchased in question, my esteemed former UW Real Estate professor, Dr. James A. Graaskamp, would turn over in his grave should the landfill be built on the proposed site. Because the land is located within the city of Madison and so close to residential neighborhoods and schools, it is a misuse of prime real estate that is currently needed as open space and for recreation. If its best long-term use changes, it will be determined in the distant future.

Professor Graaskamp was fond of stressing that a piece of property should be used for its best purpose. In this instance, a "Sustainability Campus" is a wonderful idea, but the proposed location is not.

Please vote "NO".

Sincerely,

Ernest A. Kocs