

Local Government Can Protect

Contrary to what the public is being misled to believe, local government could protect the host community children from the toxic air exposures of CertainTeed. Lou Musgrove, EPD Air Protection Branch Program Manager for Stationary Source Compliance Program, informed the public that local government is capable of limiting CertainTeed's air toxic emissions.

Local government can become involved, and require a total reduction in the dangerous carcinogenic atmospheric pollutants from CertainTeed. This is beyond the regulations, but will help substantially in curtailing these emissions which scientific research says causes life threatening childhood diseases. Local government can request or demand additional pollution controls to reduce emissions from the proposed expansion. Local government can pass their own rules and regulations and enforce their own nuisance laws.

Given the problematic history of Athens Clarke County's air quality, one would have to ask why local government continues to claim it has no authority over this permit. The parents who elected these current officials have faith in them to protect their children and grandchildren.

We are really making ourselves look environmentally incompetent and industrially backwards compared to the more progressive states in the country. Athens, Georgia, home of the flagship university, should be a leader in environmental health and clean technologies. I wonder when the Discovery astronauts looked down upon the earth in space this week, and saw the mass amounts of environmental degradation occurring on the planet, did they notice how GA is giving away our atmosphere to polluting industries?

CertainTeed is costing far more than it is benefiting the Athens area. Local government should wake up to the fact that negotiating with the air citizens breathe and the health of their children should be out of the question. Local governments around the country have risen to the occasion and stood up to the bully industries that degrade the environment. They have realized the value of their children is much more important than any short-term profit.

CertainTeed has not pulled ACC out of perpetual poverty in the three decades it has operated here, but the multi-billion dollar company has profited from stealing the air children breathe. CertainTeed's migrating dangerous pollutants are a stressor in the development of chronic diseases in the community it operates. Is it acceptable if the 1 cancer death in 100,000 that EPD and local government approve from CertainTeed's irresponsible pollution is my relative or yours? Being scammed with financial incentives that can kill your children is insidious oppression. Local government should take off the rose-colored glasses and do the job of protecting their constituents.

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"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8