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# Opinions

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## RRG updates on CWM Chemical Services landfill

**BY VINCENT AGNELLO**

Residents For Responsible Government Inc. (RRG) was formed in 2001 in response to rezoning of property in the Town of Porter, owned by CWM Chemical Services to construct a giant national hazardous waste landfill. That landfill still has not been approved, 20 years later, thanks to RRG members, Niagara County and local municipalities, numerous organizations, the Tuscarora Nation, and you.

Thousands of residents in this community showed up again and again to voice their objections to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at countless hearings held at the Lewiston-Porter schools. You matter.

CWM's last landfill closed in 2015, but CWM is still pursuing a new one. No one wants a PCB and toxic waste landfill in their community, however, there are many reasons why this facility is particularly unsuitable to Lewiston and Porter, and indeed, Niagara County.

**There is No Longer A Need**  
In 1995, the U.S. EPA concluded

there was no need for states to site or contract for hazardous waste disposal capacity. In the five decades since Love Canal, U.S. industry dramatically reduced or eliminated hazardous waste from production. EPA told us this ingenuity, not offshore manufacturing, primarily caused the sharp reduction in toxic waste generation. Some CWM affiliates today boast "more than 100 years" of remaining hazardous waste disposal capacity, and its competitors, even more.

You could count on one hand the number of New York companies that annually produce and dispose of a truckload or more of hazardous waste. Most of them are located closer to other facilities, or they prefer transshipping by rail to CWM competitors, often located in the desert, away from homes, schools and drinking water.

**Air Quality Improves Without CWM**

DEC terminated CWM's PCB air monitoring program in 1996, yet CWM took in more PCBs in 1999 than GE dumped in the Hudson River over 20 years.

Experts for Niagara County

reviewed CWM's air emissions model for a proposed new PCB and toxic waste landfill. They concluded carcinogens from former operations had been leaving the CWM site at levels the agencies consider unsafe and would do so with a new landfill. CWM used Niagara Falls Airport wind data instead of CWM wind data, which understates contaminant concentrations near CWM according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The New York State Siting Board also agreed with independent experts that CWM soil disturbance during landfill and related operations resuspended radioactive contamination and has requested sworn testimony about that, too.

**Water Quality Improves Without CWM**

CWM applications admit its last landfill discharged PCBs into the Niagara River as would the next one. Also, Niagara County experts concluded CWM was missing groundwater monitoring wells in certain migration pathways. The EPA agreed, contradicting DEC and CWM.

**Economic Opportunity Improves Without CWM**

Until COVID-19 struck, Lewiston and Youngstown thrived after CWM's last landfill closed. Experts engaged by RRG evaluated potential adverse economic effects of a new CWM landfill to local real estate values, the ability to attract new businesses and families, and risk to marketing county farm products.

The experts found that when a toxic waste operation accident happens in a county with a famous name like Niagara, just 10 miles from another famous name, Love Canal, in the age of social media, the effect on our image, marketing and tourism will be much more adverse than elsewhere.

**How You Can Help**

This last phase of the state's decision-making process requires costly expert testimony. Everyone can contribute at RRG-WNY.com or mail RRG at P.O. Box 262, Youngstown, NY 14174. Thank you for your support in protecting our community.

*Vincent Agnello serves on the RRG executive committee.*

## Chris Jacobs will fight for our local communities

**BY J "DUFFY" JOHNSTON**

Town of Porter Supervisor

As the supervisor of the Town of Porter, I have had the opportunity to work with Congressman Chris Jacobs both as a candidate and now as an elected member of the House of Representatives.

Congressman Jacobs cares deeply about our local communities. He has taken time out of his busy schedule to learn more about issues facing our community and meet with local leaders. Early on in his campaign, he came to Porter to tour the lakefront, see the damage first-hand, and receive

an update on this issue – and he has continued to make an effort to work with us to find a solution to help lakefront communities.

In addition, Congressman Jacobs and his office have made it a point to build our partnership further – his office met with me to discuss how they can help the Town of Porter during these difficult times. He has made it a priority to build a highly effective and cooperative relationship between local government and his federal office, and I believe his hard work to create this partnership will be significantly beneficial to our area

moving forward.

Finally, his office has been excellent at helping my residents here in Porter. I have referred multiple individuals to him, and his office helped them address their needs promptly and effectively – it is truly refreshing to have a member of Congress who puts the constituents first, representing us here in Western New York.

Congressman Jacobs has proven himself to be a highly responsive, cooperative and effective leader in his short time in Congress already. I truly believe that he is the exact person we need representing our

communities right now – someone who listens, means what he says, and continually works to advance his constituents and local governments' needs. I encourage anyone in the 27th Congressional District who would like to continue to have a representative who will always go to bat for them to reelect Chris Jacobs in November.

I have full confidence that he will continue his efforts with our local governments to help our region reach its full potential.

Thank you, congressman.

## Sprouting grassroots movement gains momentum in WNY

A chorus of optimistic, energized voices from all corners of WNY, indorse a rare candidate who does not accept corporate money, truly grassroots, Nate McMurray. Families of unrepresented NY-27 long for growth and opportunity, good jobs here; the reality has been weak, embarrassing, representation in Congress, high unemployment, low wages.

Energized citizens, unpaid staff have risen, stood together through multiple election cycles beside McMurray. Money can't buy that kind of support, a grassroots movement, bubbling up from the bottom, offer hope for WNY by speaking out, while we still can. Freedom of speech can be taken away, if Trump has his way. Nov. 4 will be too late; William Barr calls it sedition.

Volunteers have talked to people they know, people on the street, canvassed door to door (before COVID), written letters, postcards, phone called, text messaged, hosted indoor, now outdoor parties for small donations, donated, stood on corners, showed up for surprise events, posted "Vote for McMurray" signs, informed, excited and energized others on social media.

Nate's mom taught by example when left with seven hungry boys to raise, alone, when her young husband died. A resilient child, smart, experienced with overcoming obstacles, McMurray is an Eagle Scout, earned scholarships, Fulbright Scholar, learned several languages. Nate will be an asset in Congress.

*SEE McMURRAY, continued on Page 5*

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