MAC THORNBERRY
13TH DISTRICT
TEXAS

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

May 23, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

As you continue to evaluate modifications to current regulations, I respectfully ask that you consider the attached request from the Honorable Jason Brinkley, the Cooke County Judge.

In 2016, the EPA reduced the threshold for Non-Methane Organic Compounds (NMOCs) above which landfill owners/operators must install a gas collection and control system. This will place a high burden on small landfills, like the Texoma Area Solid Waste Authority, with limited budgets that may not have the resources available to install a new system.

Within your rules and regulations, I ask that you give this request your full consideration.

Sincerely,

Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

WMT/MS
Enclosure

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Jason Brinkley
County Judge

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April 27, 2017

Congressman Mac Thornberry
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4313

Re: EPA rules regarding Non-Methane Organic Compounds

Congressman Thornberry,

In 2016, the EPA implemented a new rule for landfills, reducing the threshold for Non-Methane Organic Compounds (NMOCs) from a 50 Mg threshold to 34 Mg threshold. Once this threshold is reached by a landfill, it would be required to install a landfill gas collection system (LGCS).

Since 2000, Cooke County and the City of Gainesville have partnered with the Cities of Sherman and Denison and with Grayson County to run the Texoma Area Solid Waste Authority (TASWA). TASWA provides sold waste and recycling services to its five members, as well as several other communities in our region. TASWA is a comparably small landfill with a yearly operating budget of approximately $4 million. If the current standards remain in place, TASWA will be forced to spend over $2 million to install a LGCS by 2020, with an additional yearly operating cost for the system exceeding $100,000. Given TASWA's operating budget, such a significant cost would require TASWA to seek other sources of funding or financing to pay for the improvements. Prior to the changes in 2016, TASWA had anticipated needing a LGCS sometime after 2025 and had been planning accordingly for the past several years to have adequate savings by that time to pay for such a system.

Therefore, I ask for your help in asking the Trump Administration to consider rolling back the 2016 EPA decision, allowing TASWA to save taxpayer dollars and ending an unnecessary and overly burdensome regulation.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss his issue further, please let me know.

Thank you,

Jason Brinkley
County Judge

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