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Public meeting over concrete crusher is chance for everyday citizens to get involved

Our Viewpoint
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The proposed construction of a permanent rock and concrete crusher in Hunt County has ignited a fierce battle between business and community welfare. Dry Creek Materials – seeking to establish its facility at 4310 W. State Highway 276 – faces mounting opposition from concerned citizens and organized groups such as Friends of Union Valley.

This isn't a mere squabble over zoning; FUV says it's a matter of public health and environmental stewardship and the stakes are high with possible ramifications extending far beyond the confines of a permit application. We stand at a crossroads where the values of profit clash with the well-being of our communities.

The outcry against the proposed crusher is not without merit. FUV – along with a coalition of elected officials and individuals – has raised valid concerns regarding the potential adverse effects of the operation. From air pollution to increased traffic congestion, the list of potential drawbacks is extensive and alarming, according to information cited by FUV.

The heart of the matter lies in the failure of Dry Creek Materials to adequately address public health protections mandated by clean air laws. The absence of tangible evidence demonstrating compliance with federal and state regulations is deeply troubling. It is incumbent upon regulatory bodies like the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to uphold these standards and prioritize the welfare of the populace over corporate interests.

The TCEQ, unfortunately, serves way too often as nothing more than a rubber stamp for developers and those in related industries. The state agency needs to do what they're supposed to do – be a good steward for the people when it comes to our environment.

But instead, it's often left to concerned citizens to step in and protect the people most impacted by the possible adverse affects of any operation like the one proposed by Dry Creek Materials.

The proposed crusher threatens to disrupt the very fabric of the communities surrounding the location. The influx of heavy tractor-trailer truck trips and the accompanying noise pollution would not only diminish quality of life but also jeopardize property values and strain public resources. Not to mention the health concerns that dozens – if not hundreds – of area residents and property owners have spoken about as part of the open public comments about the permit application on TCEQ's website.

As the public meeting hosted by TCEQ looms on the horizon this Thursday, it is imperative the people stand together and make their voices heard. This is not merely a fight for the present but a struggle to safeguard the future of neighborhoods, families and the environment.

Whether you're against the looming threat posed by the proposed crusher as FUV calls it or you're just interested in the goings-on in your community, attending Thursday's public meeting should be on your calendar. Participating in meetings like this – as well as political forums and civic meetings of all kinds no matter how small – lets you take part in the great experiment we call American democracy.

So heed the call to action. Show the powers-that-be that your community is united no matter the cause. Together, you can ensure the interests of the people prevail.

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