



Board of County Commissioners Executive Office

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Our Mission:

To manage growth and foster prosperity by prioritizing protection of environmental assets, development and maintenance of infrastructure, and the health, safety, and well-being of our citizens.

April 13, 2026

City of Bushnell City Council
c/o Michael Eastburn, City Manager
117 E. Joe P. Strickland Jr. Ave
Bushnell, FL 33513

RE: Regional Coordination Regarding Proposed Heart of Florida Landfill Leachate Injection Well

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners, we are writing to share our concerns regarding the proposed deep injection leachate well associated with the Heart of Florida Landfill in Sumter County, and to express our interest in continued coordination on this issue.

As you are aware, the proposed project raises questions related to subsurface conditions, including the region's karst geology and the potential for contaminant migration. Available information indicates that there remains limited data on deep groundwater flow patterns, including the direction, rate, and ultimate destination of injected materials. These uncertainties present challenges in evaluating long-term containment and potential impacts to regional groundwater resources.

We also recognize that the material proposed for injection, landfill leachate, differs from conventional wastewater streams and may contain organic contaminants, heavy metals, and other potentially harmful constituents. This distinction further underscores the importance of careful evaluation and shared understanding of potential risks.

In fact, given the serious concern for contamination presented by landfill leachate, Citrus County has made significant investment to prevent its proliferation through the construction of the state-of-the-art Landfill Cell 4A at the Citrus County Landfill. Furthermore, there are concerns that landfill leachate from other parts of Florida, in addition to the Heart of Florida Landfill leachate, is planned to be imported and injected into this proposed deep injection well if permitted. If permitted, this would further add to the volume of contaminated leachate to be injected and would continue to represent actions that are counterproductive to the protection of the Florida Aquifer.

As a result of the interconnected nature of the Floridan Aquifer, these considerations extend beyond jurisdictional boundaries. Citrus County relies entirely on groundwater for its public drinking water supply and is home to sensitive spring systems that are directly influenced by aquifer conditions. As such, we view this as a matter of regional importance.

Through this correspondence, it is our hope to foster collaboration, communicate our environmental concerns, and encourage continued dialogue between our respective Boards. To that end, we welcome the opportunity to share information and cooperate further to ensure that any positions or actions taken at the local or regional level are informed, transparent, and reflective of our shared interest in preserving our groundwater resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Diana Finegan
Chairman, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners