

July 15, 2021

Ed Romaine
Brookhaven Town Supervisor
1 Independence Hill
Farmingville, NY 11738

cc:

Michael Loguercio, Brookhaven Town Councilman
Dan Panico, Brookhaven Town Councilman
Kevin LaValle, Brookhaven Town Councilman
Johnathan Kornreich, Brookhaven Town Councilman
Neil Foley, Brookhaven Town Councilman
Jane Bonner, Brookhaven Town Councilwoman
Vincent Pascale, Planning Board Chair and Planning Board Members

Dear Supervisor Romaine,

As you are aware, The Brookhaven Village Association, founded in 1906 and incorporated in 1944, is the oldest civic association in continuous service in the Town of Brookhaven. We represent thousands of residents in our goal to protect and preserve our Hamlet, our community, our environment and our quality of life. On behalf of our residents, we are committed to protecting all the above and therefore we state our vehement opposition to the Town of Brookhaven's recent proposal to rezone the land around the landfill from Residential to Light Industrial in the resolution known as BR-1.

Rezoning the approximately 130 acres to light industrial and the subsequent sale of these lands pose numerous objectionable environmental concerns dear to our community. Notably the types of industries sale of this land, if rezoned, would allow into our communities. Further destruction of our land, air quality and contamination of groundwater, which from this location is directly southeast running into the pristine Yaphank Creek, Beaver Dam Creek and two of our most protected areas, Wertheim National Refuge and Carmen's River. Why would you jeopardize these areas after so much Town and County money has been spent preserving them?

Our residents also object to the Town's abdication of this area. This land will become incredibly useful once remediation of the landfill begins upon its closing in three, short years. The Town will need this land for buffering and access to the landfill throughout the lengthy process of converting this toxic land into a healthy, useful space. With private owners that can't be done. The Town's abdication of these lands is a missed opportunity to repurpose our land.

Rezoning for the subsequent sale of this land is an extremely narrow, short term solution. We ask the present Town Board to consider all of our futures at this very moment. The future of this landfill, the health of our surrounding communities, the safety of our water and our protected areas are all directly affected by BR 1.

Finally, members of our community implore you to consider the creation of a new and ongoing commission of community representatives and environmental experts to identify innovative and profitable uses of the landfill and surrounding acreage in order to create a cleaner, healthier and sustainable future for generations to come in all our communities.

Sincerely,

The Brookhaven Village Association Board