

CALH Press Release of June 27, 2018

On Monday, June 25, 2018, Citizens Against the Landfill in Hempstead (CALH) learned that Green Group Holdings LLC (GGH) will no longer pursue a permit to build the Pintail Landfill in Hempstead.

The press release issued by GGH announced that the company will abandon pursuit of the Pintail Landfill permit on the property along Hwy 6 near Hempstead, bringing welcome news that CALH and its many supporters have been waiting to hear for a long time. Based on past experience, however, some will not feel totally at ease until the property is sold by GGH and a beneficial use for the property is found. Nevertheless, it does appear that CALH's members and supporters have achieved the near impossible and a huge victory for our small, determined community by never accepting the 'It's a Done Deal' argument.

There have been a few other occasions along the 7-year journey when CALH had considered that the landfill fight might be over: winning an important court case or twice having Pintail's application returned by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), for example. However, Pintail attorneys would come back with one court action after another. In response and undaunted, CALH volunteers would simply host another Public Meeting to inform and update citizens on recent and anticipated happenings, hold another \$10,000+ 2-day garage sale (there were 43 in total), or one of 4 large fundraising dinner/auctions. And the people, regular, everyday generous citizens came out in support by the hundreds.

The foundation of CALH's success has to be the justness of the cause. In the words of CALH's President, Bill Huntsinger, "Fighting the landfill was just the right thing to do. We believe that the site selected was not well suited for a landfill." The clear understanding by citizens and volunteers of the serious consequences of such a questionable project location served to unite the community toward a common goal and, remarkably, sustained that effort to this day.

Sen. Lois Kolkhorst explained CALH's achievement in a recent press release as the "unwavering support of a citizen group who banded together to launch a self-funded legal battle against a corporate giant". The Senator's work on our behalf is also to be commended as she was undoubtedly an important supporter and ally in this battle. In addition, the City of Hempstead and Waller County played a vital role by passing ordinances controlling where landfills could be located. The City and County also used significant resources in support of this effort to stop the landfill. Other keys to the victory include generous volunteers who were willing to share their valuable time, expertise and skills, a positive leadership philosophy and an amazing team effort. CALH is grateful to each and every individual or business who aided the battle in any way over the past seven years.

This win is for the lifelong County residents, often several generations deep, as well as the many newcomers to the community, plus all who share the valuable water supply. Perhaps most importantly, the win is for future generations who will not have to deal with all that this ill-sited landfill would have forever brought to the area, and that gift makes all the hard work and effort worthwhile.

The events and cast of characters which have been involved in this landfill drama in a small rural community west of Houston might be the perfect material for an interesting book or movie, except that many would find it absolutely unbelievable! Yet, this saga speaks volumes about the community of Waller County and the proud people who live here.

