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May 10, 2023

Mr. Shane E. Khoury  
Cabinet Secretary  
Department of Energy and Environment  
5301 Northshore Dr.  
North Little Rock, AR 72118

RE: Eco Vista Class I Landfill

Dear Secretary Khoury,

We understand Eco-Vista submitted a technically complete permit modification application to the Arkansas Department of Energy and the Environment, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for expansion of the Class I Eco-Vista Landfill in Tontitown, Arkansas.

This landfill is the only solid waste disposal facility for municipalities that serves the Northwest Arkansas (NWA) region, which is among the fastest-growing places in the U.S. Failure to approve the Eco-Vista expansion will result in the need to transport waste to more distant landfills, which will increase business costs and negatively affect NWA municipalities and consumers alike.

It's our understanding that Eco-Vista is expected to run out of capacity before the end of 2023.

As you know, there are meaningful efforts in this region to reduce the flow of waste into the landfill and to recycle more. WM is involved in and supportive of this larger, regional effort led by the Northwest Arkansas Council and the region's two solid waste management districts to expand recycling and to reduce contamination in recycled materials with the expectation that we can preserve landfill capacity. Yet, we know an aggressive, successful recycling program won't eliminate the region's long-term need for waste disposal.

Based on this information and the vital need for critical infrastructure to remain in NWA, we request that DEQ approve the WM Eco-Vista Class I permit modification application without further delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Peacock", written in a cursive style.

Nelson Peacock  
President and CEO, Northwest Arkansas Council

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