

Dear editors,

We can appreciate the Akron Beacon Journal's interest in our facility, as we more than anyone understand that the Countywide Recycling and Disposal Facility is a news making story.

However, we must take issue with the overall tone of your August 4, 2008, editorial titled "Burning Concern." In your editorial, you write that the US EPA "needs to keep the attention on Republic Services, Inc., the Florida-based company that owns and operates the landfill."

You also write that the US EPA must be aggressive in making sure Republic meets its responsibilities at the landfill.

This is where we take issue with your editorial. The fact is, Republic Services has always met or exceeded its responsibilities. Not only has Republic complied with all orders issued by the Ohio or US EPA, but we have voluntarily installed 30 acres of cap, 6000 feet of odor neutralizing system, 14,000 linear feet of gas collection lines and 150 new gas collection wells, and hired the best experts in the country to work on this issue immediately after it was identified, and before required to do any of this work. We have cooperated with all of the agencies and will continue to do whatever is necessary to ensure the current chemical reaction situation is solved.

It is the employees of Countywide, which includes over 100 people working at the landfill every day, who understand better than anyone about the importance of doing what's right. Our team is tenaciously devoted to making sure we meet all of our responsibilities. Our parent company, Republic Services, has already spent more than \$50 million dollars to address the chemical reaction.

Maybe this message of a company going above and beyond to do the right thing does not sell newspapers or generate news, but it is a message your readers should understand. While it was unfortunate that this unprecedented issue could not be foreseen nor solved at lightning speed, we stand behind our people and their ongoing dedication to this issue. We invite the Akron Beacon Journal journalists to tour our facility and meet with us at Countywide at their convenience. If the public also wants to know more about us, please call Community Relations Manager Jeff Kraus at 330-874-3874 or visit www.countywideohio.com.

Thank you,



Tim Vandersall
General Manager
Countywide Recycling and Disposal Facility