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Gainesville City Commission
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Good Evening
My name is Marilyn Walker

My presentation is one of a series presented by
the Northwest Gainesville Coalition of
Homeowners Association

Some city commissioners, staff, GRU people
and a group of citizens are working on an
extensive, multi-faceted plan to make changes
in how we operate our city affairs and are
proposing to create new positions to publicize
our community and tell the country and the
world what a wonderful place Gainesville is,
hoping they will want to live here or start or
move a business here.

They want to spread the word about our
museums, concerts, libraries, springs, creeks,
university, medical care and all the other good
things we have here. I believe that the kind of
people they are hoping to attract will be savvy
enough to check out our air and water quality.

Economic
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100,000

A city that's willing to invest in that kind of showcase and yet plans to add yet another asphalt plant and yet another coal burning plant would seem to have a cognitive disconnect. We already rank 29th out of 67 counties in Florida listing counties ranked by "Health Risks From Hazardous Air Pollutants".

I don't think it makes sense to spend a lot of time and money trying to be a World Class city as we move ourselves ever higher up on the Florida most polluted list.

The asphalt plant that is proposed to be built will be in what is known as the Buck Bay area. Much of this area was rezoned 5 years ago to heavy industrial zoning (I-2). The Ankerson Basin Study which was commissioned by the Gainesville City commission to study and make recommendations on the water systems of the city said, the following about the Buck Bay area:

"The headwaters for Blues, Hogtown, Possum, and Little Hatchet Creek, as well as Turkey, Hatchet Creek, and several tributary creeks flowing into the Santa Fe river all form a swath of wetlands perched on a topographic high in north Gainesville. Seepage and overflow from

this wetlands complex feeds into the creek systems listed above."

"The Buck Bay wetlands complex is to these creeks what the Green Swamp in Central Florida is to the Peace, Myakka, Withlacoochie, Hillsborough and the Oklawaha Rivers."

And, finally, "Systems of basin importance like the greater Buck Bay wetlands complex/creek headwaters should be a priority for public acquisition and restoration."

This treasure, this world class water source, is where the Yelvington asphalt plant is planned. When you are making your decision I ask you to postpone approval and ask your city staff how further degradation of this valuable area can be avoided. It does not fit in with all the other grand ideas you hope and plan for our community.

*Could
ever
turn
it
back*