



September 1, 2007

Mr. Joe L. Smith, Mayor
City of Dadeville
216 South Broadnax
Dadeville, Alabama 36853

Dear Mayor Smith:

Your action, reported in the August 30, 2007, edition of the Alexander City Outlook, taken against Lake Watch, a non-profit water quality environmental group, was unwarranted and simply appalling. Many concerned citizens wrote to ADEM requesting the public hearing on the license renewal of the Dadeville Treatment Plant after it was uncovered by Lake Watch members that Dadeville had received at least 29 Notices of Violations, spanning several years. Members of Lake Watch, Lake Martin HOBOS, and many residents of Lake Martin, particularly the Sandy Creek area, appealed to ADEM to be heard concerning the lack of corrective actions by the City, regarding the violations.

Prior to the request for a public hearing, it was reported that Dadeville had been served an administrative consent decree order from ADEM, with a fine. A civil suit had also been filed by the Alabama Attorney General against the City for inaction regarding the violations. The citizens of Dadeville and the residents of Lake Martin demanded and received the public hearing, an opportunity provided by ADEM, a State of Alabama agency, for the affected citizens to individually voice their concerns. Over 100 people attended the hearing with many citizens taking the opportunity to inform ADEM representatives and Dadeville leaders that the past behavior of both ADEM and Dadeville was unacceptable. Only a few of those who attended and spoke were Lake Watch members, a few were citizens of Dadeville, and many were residents of Lake Martin and Sandy Creek, the recipients of any sewage overflow from the Dadeville Sewage Treatment Plant. Not a single speaker made a presentation in favor of the City's lack of response to sewage problems by its leadership.

The entire lake area owes a debt of gratitude to the members of Lake Watch, who went to Montgomery and physically searched the records of ADEM, to uncover the previously unknown Notices of Violations that had been withheld from the public. This led to the legal actions by ADEM and the Alabama Attorney General.

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Page 2 of 2
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It is time for meaningful action by the leaders of Dadeville to make progress toward rebuilding the Treatment Facility. The petty action taken against Lake Watch in your recent council meeting reminds one of the old story of shooting the messenger because you don't like the message.

In our opinion, Mayor Smith and council members, it's time to move forward and correct the transgressions of your past, not try to find someone to blame for your mistakes. It was not Lake Watch's meeting; it was the meeting of all concerned citizens voicing their disgust with their City's leaders with regard to these continual violations.

Sincerely,

Jesse M. Cunningham
President
Lake Martin HOBOs

Cc: Dadeville City Council Members