

■ BROOKHAVEN LANDFILL

To the Editor:

I am compelled to respond to Legislator Browning's letter addressing the noxious odors emanating from the Brookhaven Landfill, and her statement that "there are no reason neighbors of the landfill, or residents simply driving by, should have to contend with odor problems."

The irony of her statement is that the "on-farm" composting operations in her District continue to negatively impact the quality of life for residents not only in Manorville, but Eastport, East Moriches, Speonk, Manor Park, Moriches, and Yaphank. With 16 compost dumps in Manorville, noxious odor is an everyday occurrence.

Since Legislator Browning has now become involved in Town business, perhaps she can also help resolve the odors that are generated by the Town of Brookhaven composting facility on Papermill Road in Manorville. Perhaps she can explain WHY the Town awarded LI Compost a contract, at the same time a lawsuit was filed by the residents of East Moriches to stop the composting operations they endured for 6 long, arduous years. Long Island Compost destroyed the quality of life for those residents at nursing homes, children at schools, and worshipers at churches. In turn, they were rewarded by becoming the recipients of a Town of Brookhaven contract. To add insult to injury, the Town repeatedly renewed the contract, fully aware that their operations continue to impede the rights of residents to quiet enjoyment of their property.

Our children are affected at their

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homes (where at times they can't even play outside), and while at their schools and bus stops. On more than one occasion I have seen children holding their noses because the odor is so horrific. Of greater concern are the respiratory illnesses which appear to be on the rise in our community. Although residents have repeatedly requested air, water and soil testing, none have yet to be performed.

Our biggest supporter, Assemblyman Marc Alessi, continues to work in tandem with the DEC and State Attorney General's Office to try and resolve this issue. Quite a stark contrast to the elected officials of the Town of Brookhaven, (Councilwoman Carol Bissonette & Supervisor Brian Foley) who have the power to implement Town Law, and also encourage the non-renewal of LI Compost's contract. Legislator Browning needs to get on board and back up her statement that "the faster I can get accurate information about problems, the quicker we can work towards a solution." They DO have the information....they just need to move this up on the list of priorities!

Residents are reminded to call the 24 hour DEC Odor hotline @ 444-0380 and the Resident Odor hotline @ 874-2163. For further information, please visit www.compostalert.com

Susan Sineo
Manorville