

**RESOLUTION OF THE LEE COUNTY COMMISSION OPPOSING
THE LOCATION OF QUARRIES IN LEE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Lee County Commission, along with the City of Opelika, went on record in February of this year in opposition to a previous proposed quarry permit application made by Creekwood Resources, LLC (“Creekwood”) on Lee Road 168, on property owned by Weyerhaeuser Company; and

WHEREAS, after much public discourse, and the threat of litigation, Creekwood subsequently withdrew their Alabama Department of Environmental Management permit application for that location; and

WHEREAS, according to the minutes from the May 11, 2020 Commission meeting, District 4 Lee County Commissioner Robert Ham indicated he had talked to the owners of Creekwood Resources who stated they are looking at another location in Chambers County, not Lee County; and

WHEREAS, Creekwood is now exploring another property in Lee County, this time on Lee Road 177 in the Beulah community, again in anticipation of establishing a granite quarry; and

WHEREAS, the Lee County Engineer has consulted with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (“ADEM”) and has been informed that the Department has not received applications for either type of permit for a new quarry by Creekwood in Lee County, nor has ADEM been made aware by Creekwood Resources of any plans it may have related to this topic; and

WHEREAS, the new location borders Halawakee Creek, also on property owned by Weyerhaeuser Company, upstream from historic Bean’s Mill; and

WHEREAS, the new location borders and surrounds the Sentinel Hills Subdivision, with more than 60 residential parcels; and

WHEREAS, this property is less than one mile from the City of Opelika corporate limits, and well within their planning jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, a granite quarry would be expected to operate for more than fifty (50) years; and

WHEREAS, granite quarry operations will require blasting and crushing, which will result in significant noise and dust from the operation of quarry equipment and heavy trucks; and

WHEREAS, extremely fine granite dust particles will settle on the land and on bodies of water, potentially causing damage to residents, water supply, local flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, such dust in the air is a respiratory hazard, including silica, a known carcinogen; and
WHEREAS, Halawakee Creek provides water to rural Lee County residents as well as to the City of Opelika; and

WHEREAS, the proposed quarry would have no option but to discharge its “treated drainage” into Halawakee Creek; and

WHEREAS, the proposed quarry may affect ground-water and surface-water systems, depress the water table in the area, and affect nearby wells, springs and bodies of surface water; and

WHEREAS, Halawakee Creek flows into Lake Harding, which supplies the Chattahoochee River above the “Goat Rock” dam; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to ensure the long-term water needs of Lee County; and

WHEREAS, the significant increase in heavy truck traffic would all exit the property onto Lee Road 177 and would reasonably be expected to cause substantial deterioration to the roadway which Lee County is responsible for maintaining; and

WHEREAS, such a large volume of heavy truck traffic would endanger the traveling public on such a two-lane county road; and

WHEREAS, from Lee Road 177, the heavy truck traffic would have no options but to travel northward into Chambers County, or southward onto U. S. Highway 29; and

WHEREAS, on U. S. Highway 29, the heavy truck traffic would have the potential to cause noticeable congestion to that two-lane Federal highway and it can reasonably be predicted that a significant portion thereof will exit U. S. Highway 29 onto either Interstate 85 North or South.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lee County Commission, that we hereby state our opposition to this proposed quarry, and any such similarly situated quarries in Lee County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lee County Commission requests that ADEM review the current exploration to see whether any state laws have been violated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lee County Commission requests that ADEM deny any quarry permit applications by Creekwood Resources in Lee County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lee County Commission requests that ADEM hold a public hearing in Lee County on any permit applications related to this Resolution, should it deem such necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lee County Commission authorizes the Chairman of the County Commission and/or the County Administrator to perform any other acts they deem advisable or appropriate in furtherance of the intent of this Resolution.

