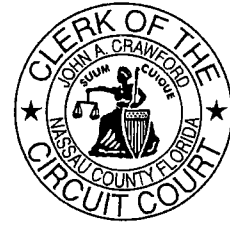




John A. Crawford  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Nassau County



September 19, 2006

The Honorable Thomas Branan, Chairman  
Nassau County Board of County Commissioners  
Post Office Box 1010  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32035

Dear Chairman Branan and Commissioners:

The purpose of my letter today is to commend each of you for your courageous leadership on the landfill debt issue. When the public spoke, you listened and acted decisively to eliminate the landfill debt during the '06/'07 budget cycle. As you might expect, this will not be an easy journey, but it must be taken. There will be additional challenges as you move forward on the decision you have reached, but those challenges are not insurmountable if you remain committed to the long term solution.

Your decision is not only aimed at retiring the nearly \$16.3 million debt, principal and interest. Additionally, it can lead to eliminating the need for the anticipated \$60 million over the remaining life of the landfill from annual operational deficits after 2007. Your decision can save the taxpayers over \$76 million dollars over those 12 years! Nothing in Nassau County's entire history has been so expensive. Tens of millions of dollars, thanks to your vision and vote this past Friday, can be redirected to future tax relief or to your many important future capital projects. While retiring the debt is only the first step in a series of steps needed to bring a permanent landfill fiscal solution, it is the one step that absolutely has to be accomplished first to begin that journey.

To the many positive encouragements you received from taxpayers who spoke at the podium in favor of a permanent landfill solution, please add my thanks and encouragement based on your new direction to commit to a permanent solution. In my capacity as chief financial officer, I firmly believe that dramatically reducing the county's debt load is moving the county in the right fiscal direction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Crawford".

John A. Crawford