

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I am a thirteen year old native of Conway, S.C. I have heard about the different proposals for the undeveloped land along the coast, and would like to share with you which proposal I would choose, and why. Paper mills, even though they have some positives or benefits, also have a great deal of negative effects as well.

A paper mill requires people to run the machinery and the building. Right? Therefore, it helps people in our county get jobs, which in turn will help decrease the unemployment rate. In addition to providing jobs, it provides us with an everyday resource, paper. This paper mill can make a difference in the economy of our area by attracting shipping companies, which will in turn increase fuel consumption.

While the paper mill is a money making source, it is also a very costly source. It could cost anywhere from millions to billions to build, equip, run and maintain this paper mill. That is not even including the electric bill, which could be an astronomical cost. Not only does the paper mill cost money, it also consumes many of our natural resources.

The paper making process requires an abundance of oil, water, trees, and other natural resources. During this process, we are slowly but surely decreasing the key resources we need to survive. Just think, it takes 19,075 gallons of water, and 24 trees to make just 1 ton of paper. You know those Sunday papers you get? It takes 500,000 trees to produce those and have them on your front porch. On top of all the other resources, it also takes 5,690 lbs. of greenhouse gases to make 1 ton of paper.

Paper industries use large amounts of trees, which leaves large tracks of land with little to no trees to provide oxygen and habitats for wildlife. Much of the equipment used in the logging industry is in poor condition and often break down, spilling oil and fuel into the soil. This also causes soil and water pollution in other areas, not just limited to the area where the plant is built.

Energy is another resource that is used extensively in paper mills. In general, paper mills are the world's fifth largest industrial consumer of energy. On average 11, 134 kWh are consumed in order to produce 1 ton of paper. Natural resource loss is not the only negative thing about paper mills.

Paper mills also produce a great deal of pollution and waste. It is the third largest pollution producing industry in North America. Just think, per ton of paper produced, 2,278 lbs. of waste are also produced. The waste has to go somewhere. Most of the time it gets emitted into the air, or it gets accidentally (or sometimes on purpose) dumped into bodies of water.

Anytime you disturb undeveloped land by placing huge factories, large amounts of asphalt, and concrete you disrupt the natural flow of rainwater runoff, causing storm water retention to become an issue. Trucks and equipment used for transportation of paper products

often have minor oil leaks on paved surfaces, which can get mixed with rainwater runoff and create pollution issues if not cleaned up properly.

The gases and chemicals released by the paper mills can be harmful to humans, plants, and other parts of the environment. Nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and carbon dioxide are just a few examples of chemicals and gases that are emitted during the paper making process. Nitrogen and sulfur dioxide are major causes of acid rain. The acid rain can harm plants, aquatic animals, and other things in the environment. While nitrogen and sulfur dioxide contribute to acid rain, carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that can effect climate change.

While chemicals and gasses can be emitted into the air, they can also get into bodies of water. It can harm the animals and/or other organisms that body of water.

So you see, building a paper mill probably is not the best choice for this undeveloped land. Paper mills are a very costly and consuming source. They not only cost and consume money, they also consume a great deal of our natural resources. Water, oil, and trees are just a few resources used. Energy is another resource which is used extensively. Natural resource loss is not the only fault to a paper mill. Paper mills produce a great deal of pollution and waste, which gets emitted into the air and mixed with rainfall runoff. The pollution can be very harmful to humans, plants, and other parts of the environment. Acid rain, and climate change are just a few examples of things that pollution can do to our environment. Yes, paper mills do have some great positive effects, but they also have a great deal of negatives as well. So, by building this paper mill, we are slowly but surely decreasing the amount of key resources needed to survive.