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Reflection

- In Tennessee, there are 6 counties that have the most impaired waterways and water pollution relative to the other counties – Davidson, Shelby, Madison, Hamilton, Greene, and Sullivan. The biggest contributor to this pollution is high urban density.
 - Sources: <https://www.newschannel5.com/news/whats-in-the-water-tennessees-water-pollution-problems-are-becoming-more-widespread>
- In addition, a part of Nashville that has been heavily affected by environmental racism is the Bordeaux neighborhood, which has for years been the city's "dumping ground" as evidenced by the heavy concentration of landfills in the neighborhood. Bordeaux is a historically Black neighborhood, so residents feel that the city deems parts of Nashville occupied by Black people as disposable and worthy as a dumping ground. There is also surface mining that occurs on residential properties and building of interstates through the area, leading to further pollution in general. All these environmental burdens create a stark difference from affluent, predominantly white Nashville neighborhoods like Belle Meade or Green Hills, which are full of greenery and lack the landfills and industry of Bordeaux. The presence of landfills and mining has raised serious concerns about the water quality, especially considering that past landfills occupying the neighborhood accepted materials that threatened water quality. Therefore, water pollution among other pollution types is a definite concern for the residents there. Resistance to this treatment of Bordeaux on a local level has been met with little change or care from city and state governments.
 - Sources (for the letter as well):
 - https://www.nashvillescene.com/news/environmental-racism/article_e82c803b-7acd-54be-bb57-f2addb5eba8a.html
 - <https://www.nashville.gov/sites/default/files/2021-10/SWRB-201014-Presentation-A-Brief-History-of-Environmental-Racism-in-Nashville.pdf>
 - <https://tennesseelookout.com/briefs/future-of-southern-services-debris-landfill-in-bordeaux-neighborhood-now-in-hands-of-nashville/>

Letter

To Senator Campbell,

We are the leadership team of Environment and Conservation Organization at Belmont University, the primary student voice for environmental issues on our campus. We are writing to you today about the environmental issues facing the Bordeaux neighborhood in Nashville, especially as it relates to equitable access to clean water.

For decades now, the Bordeaux neighborhood, which is a predominantly Black community, has been a "dumping ground" for the city of Nashville. As of 2022, it accepts around 90% of all

construction waste generated in Nashville, which we know is immense considering how fast the city is growing. This is nothing new. Bordeaux has been home to massive landfills accepting so much of Nashville's trash. Despite the disapproval of residents and pressure from local officials, not much has changed. If we do not work to resolve this issue of environmental inequity, we are sending a powerful message to the Black community in Bordeaux that their neighborhoods are worthy of the city's trash, and that is not right. This has consequences for the presence of noxious wastes in the area as well as water pollution.

Therefore, we ask that you take action in the Tennessee Senate to bring justice to the people of Bordeaux and be their voice in the legislature in their fight against waste companies. Every person deserves to have a stable source of clean air, land, and water, and not have these be under threat consistently.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Belmont University Environment and Conservation Organization (ECO)

Instagram Post

