

Why Businesses Care About Titan

Our Natural Environment Is Economic Ground Zero- Forbes Magazine (2009) ranks Wilmington as the 13th best place in the nation for business and careers, based on business and living costs, income growth, colleges, quality of life, crime rates and cultural and recreational opportunities. We are at a tipping point, and Titan could decide our fate. Do we want more heavy industry, low-wage jobs, pollution and its associated costs, or do we want to attract high-technology businesses and invest in our current community strengths to compete in a global market? **The choice is clear – we will not have it both ways.** *Lloyd Smith, President, Cortech Solutions, Inc.*

Fairness- We see this tax giveaway to a foreign corporation as *more than* just another example of the irresponsible use of our tax dollars by our elected officials to subsidize another big corporation. No, this is a special case of exporting our tax dollars to subsidize a foreign corporation. **Where are the tax incentives for LOCAL COMPANIES who want to create CLEAN JOBS?** *Lloyd Smith, President, Cortech Solutions, Inc.*

It's Just Bad for Business and Our Quality of Life- We moved dozens of families to Wilmington and created close to 400 local jobs in NorthChase Industrial Park, and helped to generate over 1,000 additional good jobs for Southeastern North Carolina. Recently, I've now stopped supporting similar recruitment efforts for new companies. How can I tell prospective employers to relocate in a city which may soon be inundated with mercury, hundreds of tons of particulate matter, and other toxins spouting out of a cement plant smokestack with over 8,000 children within five miles of it? Worse yet, there is the specter that all of us within a 27-mile radius will be affected, not just for a single day, but every day. Gaining 160 well-paying jobs at a cement plant sounds good in these tough economic times, but we will surely lose thousands of future jobs. For those of us who remain, we will become victims of mercury pollution, and serious health issues. **Is this what you came here for? Is this what you want for your children and grandchildren? I surely don't.** *Chuck Agnoff, Founder, Interroll Corp., former Chairman of the Cape Fear Community College Board of Trustees.*

Negative Economic Effects of Titan Cement- It has been reported that Titan's proposed 160 new jobs would pyramid into 720 new jobs, bringing an additional \$235 million in economic activity to the county, and an additional \$20 million in rental and dividend income to the county... These extraordinarily high numbers were obtained by using a hypothetical computer model. **These hypothetical models have been shown to vastly overestimate the actual economic impact of a new manufacturing and production facility...** On the average, real world studies show that locations of low-technology firms may actually "DECREASE" county-wide employment and long-term economic activity. Study results of similar proposals suggest that the 160 proposed employees of Titan Cement would result in a net gain of **only 46 employees** (not the 720 suggested by Titan). Likewise, the positive estimates for Titan Cement for wages, salaries, and self-employment income are also vastly overestimated. And in polluting facilities like Titan, there is almost certainly the potential for long-term economic contraction.

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Medical Community Speaks Out Against Titan- Physicians are generally rather conservative, small business owners who have a profound interest in the economic development of our region. So why have over 230 local physicians, including most of our town's pediatricians and pulmonologists, urged the cessation of the proposed Titan Cement Factory in Castle Hayne? **Because cement production is a particularly noxious activity.** The medical literature clearly documents increased risks of serious respiratory problems in proximity to such plants. Titan's proposed permit would allow it to emit toxic amounts of mercury. Dr. Stephen Lester, Director of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice, and Dr. Philip Landrigan, Professor of Pediatrics at The Mount Sinai School of Medicine, agree that **there is NO safe level of mercury exposure for children. Put another way, all levels of mercury exposure can be harmful to fetuses and small children.** In addition, according to Martha Keating of Duke University, sulfur dioxide, sulfate particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, hydrochloric acid and other inevitable by-products of cement production are of grave concern. She warns us that some of these by-products have been known to cause cancer, others impair reproduction and normal development of children, and can worsen conditions like asthma, leading to emergency room visits and hospitalizations. **Titan claims that they are managing the risk by adhering to regulations. Over 300 local health care workers disagree.** Whom will you trust with the health of your family? Will you trust an international cement conglomerate and well-intentioned but misinformed local businessmen and politicians? Or will you trust your physicians? *Frederick H. Opper, M.D., Gastroenterologist, NC; Clinical Asst. Professor of Medicine, UNC School of Medicine*