

To whom it concerns,

My name is L Ray Burns, I grew up on about 25 acres of land about 2-3 miles from Sunny Farms Landfill. I was a perfectly healthy child that was in sports planning to continue playing in college. If I wasn't at school or training for sports, I could often be found outside just a few miles from this landfill. While growing up I would drink water from the hose, play in the creek that ran along the southern border of our property, and ate animals I would hunt from our land. After doing this for most of my childhood, my life took a dramatic change at the beginning of 2016 when I was diagnosed with a rare form of aggressive childhood bone cancer called Ewing's Sarcoma leading to the amputation of my left leg.

This was in the middle of my senior year of high school, while peers my age were getting excited to start their lives, I was dealt with fighting for my life for the next year on a hospital bed receiving chemotherapy and having my leg amputated. Since this cancer is so rare, unfortunately they do not have many studies about this horrendous disease. However, what the experts do know about this cancer is it is not hereditary but instead triggered by something I was exposed to throughout my childhood. The symptoms of this cancer align with growing pains in children so it is extremely hard to detect without expensive regular and routine testing. If undetected the cancer will spread rapidly leading to an expected survival rating below 30%.

Sincerely,

*L Ray Burns*

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