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From: Costantino, Catherine <catherine_costantino@brown.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 4:48 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: My support for the h5923 high heat faculty opposition bill

To whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is Catherine Costantino and I am a resident of East Greenwich Rhode Island. I am writing to show my support for the high heat facility opposition bill number h5923. I support the opposition of any high heat pyrolysis or gasification or burning system in the state of Rhode Island. These facilities cause damage to our environment and have shown over and over again, when built in other locations in our country, that they are problematic both in terms of constant poor emissions test results as well as odor issues in the vicinity that they are built in and there is no doubt that these types of facilities cause groundwater and land contamination. Rhode Island currently has a company trying to bring in medical waste to a facility like this with the plan to burn or "gasify" these materials. These materials, which will arrive in hazardous waste bags, will include contaminating pathogens and toxic chemicals like lead, and dioxins and mercury. These materials that will be arriving will also contain chemotherapy chemicals which have been proven over and over again to cause human illness and long-term organ injury when released into our environment. These types of facilities sell themselves as green and good for the environment because they're removing things from our landfills yet No science proves this to be the case and in fact there's very little science to even show whether these types of high heat pyrolysis facilities work effectively. The companies also tried to say that this is not a burning, incineration system. This is a two-stage system that Does burn and in Europe they call it what it is, "Stage Incineration". It IS incineration, 2 stage Incineration, and it will cause the same problems that other states in this country have had with incineration plants. Rebranding something and trying to sell it as a different facility when it is really the same thing is both offensive to our intelligence and wrong and dangerous to Rhode island and it's environment. In addition to that lack of science assessing these facilities, we know that they use more energy than they produce which makes them, Not green. And we also know that these types of facilities cannot be overseen effectively by the Rhode Island DEM since the DEM gas said themselves that they are understaffed and not able to do the kind of oversight of emissions that is needed to make sure these types of facilities run correctly and safely. I support this bill and I feel very strongly that the state of Rhode Island should ban all high heat waste facilities that use either incineration or pyrolysis or gasification to process waste.

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