

Lou Mansolillo

From: Jay Rowe <jason.d.rowe@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 3, 2021 8:13 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.
Subject: Re: MedRecycler-RI facility in W. Warwick

Jason Rowe, Bill 5923, For

Correction to my previous email. For the bill, against the facility

Good evening,

I am writing to note my opposition to further allowing, enabling, or permitting an untested, unfounded technology for incineration of medical waste (or any waste for that matter) in West Warwick (abutting our neighborhood and community of East Greenwich). Furthermore, this facility will affect all Rhode Islanders and our climate.

Setting aside the optics of this process appearing to be another RI political, loophole driven fast track job with little proven upside, and significant downside. As others have mentioned, this does remind me of the 38 Studios mistake that has cost Rhode Islanders dearly. While I trust due process will prevail, so far I lack confidence the appropriate process has been or will be followed.

To fact based evidence however, I cite an article from the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives from June 2009 ([BlowingSmokeReport.pdf \(no-burn.org\)](#)). The bottom line is this facility would be an incineration outfit with its own risks. "The core impacts of all types of incinerators remain the same: they are toxic to public health, harmful to the economy, environment and climate, and undermine recycling and waste reduction programs."

Details from the article are included in the link with evidence to support each of the high level points below. Here are the reasons why this is not a good fit for RI, or really any place in the world. This does not include the risks of traffic, transport of waste, and risk inherent in that, which I also find disturbing and concerning.

Each reason provided by MedRecycler-RI and it's holding company as to why this would benefit RI is unproven, and RI does not need to be the experiment that fails miserably.

10 Reasons Why GASIFICATION, PYROLYSIS & PLASMA Incineration are Not the “Green Solutions” Often Claimed by Industry Representatives

Reason #1: Gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incinerators (like mass burn incinerators) contaminate people and the environment with toxic and cancercausing gaseous, liquid and solid releases.

Industry Myth: Gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incinerators are safe and pollution-free.

Reason #2: Emissions limits for incinerators (including mass burn, gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incineration) don't ensure safety. Emissions from incinerators are also not measured sufficiently and thus

overall emissions levels reported can be misleading. In addition, emission limits are not always adequately enforced.

Industry Myth: Gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incinerators are regulated to standards that ensure that they are safe.

Reason #3: Gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incinerators have a dismal track-record plagued by malfunctions, explosions and shut-downs.

Industry Myth: Gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incinerators are operationally proven.

Reason #4: Staged incineration is not compatible with recycling; gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incinerators compete for the same financing and materials as recycling programs. Incineration also undermines efforts to minimize the production of toxic and unrecyclable materials.

Industry Myth: Gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incinerators are compatible with recycling.

Reason #5: Staged incinerators can be even more expensive and financially risky than mass burn incinerators.

Industry Myth: Gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incinerators are a wise investment.

Reason #6: Incinerators inefficiently capture a small amount of energy by destroying diminishing resources. Gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incinerators are even less efficient at generating electricity than mass burn incinerators.

Industry Myth: Gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incinerators reliably produce “renewable energy.”

Reason #7: Incinerating discarded materials depletes resources and in many cases permanently damages the natural environment.

Industry Myth: Gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incinerators are environmentally sustainable.

Reason #8: Staged incineration technologies are contributors to climate change, and investment in these technologies undermines truly climate-friendly solutions.

Industry Myth: Gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incinerators are good for the climate.

Reason #9: All types of incinerators require a large amount of capital investment, but they create relatively few jobs when compared to recycling and composting programs.

Industry Myth: Gasification, pyrolysis and plasma incinerators create good jobs.

Reason #10: Wasting valuable natural resources in incinerators and landfills is avoidable and unnecessary.

Industry Myth: Wasting materials is inevitable.