

April 8, 2021

The Honorable David A. Bennett
Chairman, House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
RE: House Bill No. 5923 (FOR)

Dear Chairman Bennett and Members of the Committee:

As a resident of East Greenwich, a parent, and a concerned global citizen, I am writing to urge your support of House Bill 5923, the High-Heat Waste Facility Act of 2021.

We are in the midst of a global climate crisis. More than ever, the choices we make about our waste, our emissions, and our resources need to put the health of our planet at the forefront. As the Ocean State, Rhode Island should be positioning itself as a leader in *true* green technology. While some proponents of high-heat waste processing may attempt to position their operations as “renewable”, the text of Bill 5923 counters this best when it reads: “Energy derived from the combustion of solid waste, and from the combustion of fuels derived from solid waste, is not renewable energy.” High-heat waste facilities require a significant amount of external energy to achieve the temperatures needed for processing, and then in turn release emissions that further contribute to climate change. Allowing this type of facility to function in our state would be an embarrassment, the equivalent of saying that Rhode Island is not taking the threat of climate change seriously.

Health and safety also need to be prioritized. There is not sufficient proof that this technology is safe for the environment, facility employees, or the general public. These facilities generate and burn materials filled with toxins, emitting tons of carbon dioxide and other pollutants. I am concerned about the multiple members of my family who suffer from asthma and how future, poorer air quality could affect their health. The long term risks of human exposure to such processes and toxins are also unknown, meaning that even those of us without known health conditions, especially our children, could be negatively impacted. I urge you to support this bill in order to avoid jeopardizing future generations’ health and safety.

With a medical waste pyrolysis facility already proposed for West Warwick, passage of this bill is of utmost urgency. Facilities of this type do not belong in West Warwick. They do not belong in Rhode Island. They do not belong anywhere on this planet. They are not worth the harm they will do, or any of the accompanying risks.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Marisa Kambour
East Greenwich, RI