

April 26, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the House Corporations Committee,

Re: House Bill No. H.8400

I am a North Kingstown resident writing in strong support of the passage of House Bill H.8400, which would prohibit thermal waste conversion facilities, including sludge pyrolysis, within the Quonset Business Park.

I have years of experience in public health and regulatory analysis, and based on my assessment of available permitting information, I have significant concerns that the current evaluations do not fully characterize potential community exposure. In particular, there appears to be limited assessment of cumulative impacts with existing industrial sources in the Quonset area, uncertainty regarding PFAS destruction, potential fluorinated byproducts, and emissions characterization, as well as insufficient evaluation of non-routine or upset operating conditions that can materially influence real-world emissions.

While such facilities may meet existing regulatory thresholds, those thresholds are typically designed for individual pollutants under defined operating assumptions and do not reflect cumulative, long-term exposure at the community level. In addition, permitting analyses often rely on modeled conditions that may not fully capture variability in operations or less-than-ideal operating scenarios. As a result, regulatory compliance alone does not necessarily equate to a comprehensive assessment of potential health risk for nearby residents.

These concerns are particularly relevant given the proximity of Quonset Business Park to residential communities. Limiting such facilities only within a specified distance from schools would not adequately address broader community exposure, as potential impacts associated with air emissions, odor, and persistent contaminants are not confined to narrow geographic boundaries.

Given these gaps and uncertainties, a precautionary approach is warranted. Preventing the siting of such a facility in this location represents a reasonable and prudent step to protect public health, environmental quality, and the well-being of North Kingstown residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support and pass House Bill H.8400.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kerry Hsu
North Kingstown resident