

April 8, 2021

Testimony in Support of H 5923

Will it cause cancer? What impact will it have to our water supply? Should I move? Will it smell? How did it get here?

These are the questions I get asked daily as I've been working on the opposition for a high heat medical waste facility currently proposed for Kent County .

These companies come in under the radar to unsuspecting communities. In our case a working class community looking for the benefits of the tax revenue and promise of jobs. The only issue is , the location also happens to be in the middle of Kent County with no buffer zone, a neighboring day care , college campus and numerous businesses and residential communities. The other fact that can't be ignored is they would also be looking to bring more waste into the state from neighboring states in order for their business to be profitable.

Many companies will be looking to come to RI claiming to be green with NO concern for our welfare, just for their bottom line. This is not a NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) issue. RI needs sustainable industry - not pop up ones that typically shut down due to environmental concerns , fines or finances needed to further support the safety of their initiative.

After spending over a year objectively trying to learn about these types of facilities, the concerns stated are real and quite frankly , RI is too densely populated a state to take a chance with ANY environmental or health concerns the public would be subject to with a high heat facility .

With RI government officials, looking to reduce emissions and help protect our beautiful state and all who live here, it would be counter productive to allow high heat facilities to operate in RI. I urge you to move forward with support of this bill to help protect ALL RI communities from going through the worry and concern our residents are facing.

Thank you for your consideration,
Denise Lopez
EG, RI
Representative - Caldwell