

Lou Mansolillo

From: Lily Scott <lilygscott@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:21 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: High Heat Bill Testimony

Dear RI House,

After listening to the public forum for West Warwick/East Greenwich and the proposed MedRecycler project, I felt compelled to reach out and share my testimony. As an RI small business owner, I was disappointed to learn that DEM would consider granting approval to a project that will, so obviously, damage the health and safety of our community.

I can attest to the real environmental concerns about the MedRecycler Waste Incinerator. I worked in the South Bronx of NYC, in a public school neighboring medical waste incinerators. The rates of asthma and severe respiratory disease among the resident population was (and continues to be) staggering. These medical waste smokestacks have state of the art cleaning scrubbers, meant to meet climate emission controls, and still the human and environmental effects are horrendous. Warmer seasons bring air quality in these neighborhoods to nearly unbreathable levels. The water quality of rivers and canals in the neighborhoods are completely toxic- irreparably polluted from years of waste water disposal and runoff. I moved to East Greenwich to start a family in a place with healthy air qualities and clean groundwater. The MedRecycler project would destroy both overnight.

Should this sound alarmist, I urge you to speak with the many experts opposed to this project. Kevin Budris, with the Conservation Law Foundation, who has science to support the fact that burning medical waste is not a source of green energy. Our own State House is also making strides towards striking medical waste burning as an option for the Ocean State, Bridget Valverde is an excellent source for these details. Looking into the details proposed by MedRecycler to DEM- they have NO SPILL PLAN, meaning they have no idea how or plan to clean up a problem. They state that they will burn 70 tons of medical waste a day, 24 hours a day. The fact that MedRecycler has rebranded "incinerator" to "pyrolosis" is semantics. Gases and vapors will be expelled into our air and these noxious fumes will be contaminated with known carcinogens that we will first breathe, then consume in our drinking water and through the plants we eat that are watered by this pollution. Waste water generated from their process will be diverted into our systems where it will contaminate our coastlines, beaches and their delicate ecosystems. This is a huge health and environmental step backwards in a time where we have the capabilities and ethical compass to move our local environment in a clean and efficient direction. This is the exact opposite of being the 'good neighbor" that MedRecycler proposes to be.

I understand that Rhode Island places an important emphasis on business and economic health. Through this lenz of creating 40 jobs, it may be tempting to view the MeRecycler project as a positive thing for the state. Keeping in mind that the parent company Sun Pacific Holding Corp, LLC, has never been solvent, and is reliant upon \$17.5m in bonds from Commerce RI, let's also look at the long term impact of the pollution that this plant will create:

-1600 Division Road (the address for MedRecycler) is a shared office park. The existing tenants currently employ over 100 Rhode Islanders. They will all be forced to relocate (possibly out of the state) to a location where their employees are safe from the hazardous air and water pollution of their neighbors.

-Ground water will become polluted in East Greenwich, and flow south to the rest of the state and into the Bay. The majority of drinking water in East Greenwich homes is through well water systems.

-Now the air and water quality becomes so undesirable in East Greenwich, that people move away.

-This exodus floods the real estate market, driving prices down, then the town struggles to find people willing to live in a polluted environment and tax assessments nose dive. The schools tank. Small businesses flee.

-Where East Greenwich was once a jewel in the Rhode Island ecosystem of skilled workers, residents, small business, thriving Main St economy and a great school system; we now have a polluted backwater where you can't give away homes and wouldn't eat a thing grown in the soil.

Please think this through and give the situation the gravity it deserves. Please vote for the High Heat Bill. It is really a life and death decision for our state.

Sincerely,
Lily Scott

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