

March 19, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

I am the mother of three small children, and have been a resident of East Greenwich, RI for the past 9 years. Our home is located just over two miles from the proposed medical waste facility at 1600 Division Road in West Warwick. As I have started to educate myself about MedRecycler, I am quite frankly appalled that plans to even consider this facility have progressed this far. I would like to take a moment to express some of my concerns.

First and foremost, I am greatly concerned from a health and safety perspective. Medrecycler plans to use a technology to disintegrate medical waste at high temperatures that is essentially untested. There are currently no other facilities in the United States that use pyrolysis to process medical waste. What this means is that the risks are virtually unknown. Medical waste is made up of about 25% plastic, which when heated or burned, releases hazardous heavy metals like lead and mercury, as well as toxic pollutants such as dioxins into the air. Exposure to these pollutants over time can cause various cancers, liver and endocrine damage, infertility, and birth defects. The MedRecycler facility in West Warwick plans to run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and disintegrate 70 tons of waste per day that is trucked in primarily from out of state. As a reference, processing this volume of waste would rival the largest medical waste incinerator in the country, which is located in Baltimore, MD. It simply defies common sense to place a facility that will process this magnitude of medical waste using a virtually untested method, smack in the middle of such a densely populated area. The site of MedRecycler is directly next to a daycare, across the street from a golf course and a restaurant, near two ponds, a college, and surrounded by many neighborhoods and schools in the East Greenwich/West Warwick area. If such a facility is to go anywhere, shouldn't it be placed in a very remote location away from dense population and important bodies of water until the risks are better understood? Nicholas Campanella, the "businessman" behind MedRecycler, is a resident of New Jersey who was implicated last spring for his involvement in a Covid related mask scam. He assures us that MedRecycler will be a "good and safe neighbor" in spite of the fact that he himself has no clue what the long term effects of this untested technology might be. Why on Earth should we trust him? I, for one, do not feel that my children or any other members of this community should be turned into lab rats.

I also have significant concerns about the environmental implications of having this facility in Rhode Island. As the "Ocean State", we are literally surrounded by important bodies of

water. How can it be guaranteed that pollutants from this facility will not end up in the bay? Between airborne pollutants, the potential for car accidents involving any of the trucks carrying 43 million pounds of hazardous waste through the state each year, and the potential for human error or malfunctions at the facility, it is naive to think that this facility will be anything other than a danger to the oceans and environment of Rhode Island.

Finally, I have concerns about the impact that MedRecycler will have on our town in general. In addition to the issues mentioned previously, medical waste facilities are known to give off a foul odor and cause discoloration of the air. The town of East Greenwich has an excellent school system, a charming waterfront downtown, and has long been a highly desirable place to live. The presence of a facility such as MedRecycler is likely to make East Greenwich a far less desirable place to live and may have a detrimental effect on home values in the area.

In conclusion, I feel very strongly that MedRecycler should not be allowed to operate a facility at 1600 Division Road in West Warwick, or in fact, anywhere else in Rhode Island. There are far too many known and unknown risks. Why should the people, animals, and environment of Rhode Island be turned into unwilling participants in a scientific experiment while the pockets of a New Jersey businessman get fatter? As the DEM website states, "Our mission put simply is to protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family". I implore the DEM to abide by its own mission statement and deny any permits to MedRecycler. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah H. Turshen