

Testimony in support of S3224: AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- QUONSET DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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To Chair Britto and the honorable Members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

I submit testimony in support of S3224.

High-heat thermal waste facilities are extreme polluters of highly toxic and dangerous substances. As the most densely populated state in the country (behind NJ), RI can never have such a facility in our state. The risks from such a facility are off the charts and completely unacceptable to the safety and well-being of RI residents, wildlife, and the natural world we all rely on for survival.

Solid waste facilities are the worst possible kind, and will make the levels of pollution and harm from the Allens Avenue area seem pale in comparison (scary to imagine). The energy derived from the combustion of solid waste, and from the combustion of fossil fuels to run such an operation are not renewable energy; far from it in fact. The toxic pollution will rain down on the Narraganset Bay and local area lands, while the toxic brew will spread through the air across our state.

RI State lawmakers are charged with a moral and civil mandate to protect our communities, environment, climate, and natural resources by prohibiting the construction and operation solid waste incinerators, waste-to-fuel facilities, waste-to-chemical facilities, and other high-heat waste/**pyrolysis** facilities—in Quonset and anywhere else in RI.

Since bills to prohibit high heat waste facilities were held and not voted on in 2023, 2024, and 2025, I urge you to not lose more time and to bring the bill to a vote in the Senate in 2026.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Senators Valverde, DiMario, and Euer for introducing this extremely important bill.

George Voutes