



Governor Dannel P. Malloy
 State of Connecticut
 State Capitol
 210 Capitol Avenue
 Hartford, CT 06106
 860-566-4840

ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE
 COUNTY OF ALBANY
 STATE OF NEW YORK

Commissioner Robert Klee
 Dept of Energy & Environmental Protection
 79 Elm Street
 Hartford, CT 06106
 860-723-7600

December 18, 2017

Dear Governor Malloy and DEEP Commissioner Klee:

We are concerned that the State of Connecticut is seriously considering a proposal that relies on burning 116,000 tons of trash per year in the cement kiln in our county.

As residents and public officials in Albany County, New York, we understand waste incineration, as we also had a state-run trash incinerator that was quite polluting. Albany County has moved away from trash incineration years ago, and saw our incinerator closed in 1994.¹

This proposal DEEP is considering is one of three finalists that may be chosen by the end of this month.² Connecticut Public Act No. 14-94 states that the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection "may" select one of these three final proposals on or before December 31, 2017 and direct the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority to enter into an agreement for redevelopment of the aging trash incinerator in Hartford, known as the Connecticut Solid Waste Management System Project.³ We understand the need to replace this old incinerator. However, we object to replacing it with waste burning in our county.

The proposal by Mustang Renewable Power Ventures would have some recyclables removed from the trash from 70 Connecticut towns, and the rest would be baled, shipped to the LafargeHolcim cement plant in our county, shredded, and burned in their kiln.⁴ This LafargeHolcim plant has long been of the largest air polluters in New York State. Trash is a dirtier fuel than coal by many measures.⁵ It is more polluting even when burned in trash incinerators that are equipped with more air pollution controls than coal plants typically have. We are not willing to become the backyard for 116,000 tons/year of Connecticut trash, risking increased pollution from trucking and from air emissions at our local cement plant.

Prince George's County, Maryland recently went through a similar process to yours, evaluating various "waste-to-energy" schemes, and choosing seven finalists, including two of the three being considered by

DEEP: Mustang Renewable Power and Covanta.⁶ After much time and money was spent pursuing the proposals, the county abandoned their entire contract process in August 2016, scrapping all of the proposals and moving forward with development of a Zero Waste Plan with much public involvement from community stakeholders.⁷

The other two proposals DEEP is considering rely on incineration in your own backyard, either in Hartford or Bristol. Trash incineration is the most expensive and polluting way to manage waste or to make energy.⁸ It is more damaging than landfilling, and still sends toxic ash to landfills. While some landfilling will always be needed, the best option in terms of air pollution, global warming is a Zero Waste approach with minimized landfilling and no incineration. Our local governments have climate action plans, as does the State of Connecticut.

We recommend that you follow the lead of Prince George's County by dropping the current three proposals and developing a strong Zero Waste Plan that does not rely on any sort of incineration.

Sincerely,

the undersigned Albany County Legislators:

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|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>Doug Bullock</u> | <u>Harriet Jayce</u> |
| <u>Paul Miller</u> | <u>William B. Smith</u> |
| <u>James Cunniff</u> | <u>Let</u> |
| <u>Stephen Salvalay</u> | <u>Dail Mayo</u> |
| <u>John</u> | <u>W</u> |
| <u>Tommy Chapman</u> | <u>Handa Aillingham</u> |
| <u>RK Tompkins</u> | <u>Andrew Torzce</u> |
| <u>Benjamin M. Cronin</u> | <u>Samuel Fein</u> |
| <u>J. Wigg</u> | <u>Charles S. Dawson Jr.</u> |
| <u>Adrian</u> | <u>Gil Ethier</u> |

¹ <http://www.csmonitor.com/1994/0208/08111.html>

² http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&q=570556&deepNav_GID=1646

³ Public Act No. 14-94, p.3. <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/act/pa/pdf/2014PA-00094-RO05B-00357-PA.pdf>

⁴ http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/waste_management_and_disposal/solid_waste/mira_rfp/mustang_response_to_rfp_executive_summary.pdf

⁵ <http://www.energyjustice.net/incineration/worsethancoal>

⁶ <http://www.energyjustice.net/md/pg/victory>

⁷ <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2651/Zero-Waste-Draft-Plan>

⁸ <http://www.energyjustice.net/incineration/>