

TOWN OF COEYMANS

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December 15, 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 town.

The proposal DEEP is considering is one of three finalists that are to be chosen by the end of this month. We understand the need to replace the aging trash incinerator in Hartford. However, we object to replacing it with waste burning in our town.

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 town, shredded, and burned in their kiln. This LafargeHolcim plant has long been one of the largest air polluters in New York State and trash is an even dirtier fuel than coal by many measures. 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. After much time and money was spent pursuing these 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.

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. 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.

Please know that as a Town Board we will do whatever is within our power to make sure trash is not burned in our community. We would 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,

Philip A. Crandall
Town Supervisor