

I am asking you to do the right thing for our community: approve the portion of the County Executive's FY2027 budget that will close the trash incinerator by the end of this year.

I'm not a scientist or a policy expert. I'm just someone who lives here, breathes the air here, and wants my neighbors, especially our kids, to be healthy.

Burning trash releases toxic pollutants. Communities near incinerators face higher rates of respiratory illness, and in Montgomery County, it's our lower-income residents who bear the most of that burden. That's not fair, and it's not something we should keep funding with taxpayer dollars.

We have better options. Other counties and cities have successfully shifted to waste reduction, recycling, and safer disposal systems. Montgomery County can too and the County Executive's budget gives us the chance to start right now.

I know change can feel complicated. But sometimes the right path is simple: stop doing the thing that's hurting people, and invest in something better.

Please vote yes. Approve this budget item. Close the incinerator, and show our community that you're serious about health, equity, and a cleaner future.

Thank you.