

My name is Dr. Richard Hermann, MD, MPH, FACP. I am a pediatrician and clinical pathologist currently leading global drug-development research in Leukemia at AstraZeneca.

I served under the second Bush Administration as Director of the Human Research Protocol Office for the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory in the Office of Research and Development at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from Jan 2003 to March 2005.

My experience and leadership in the effects of pollution on human health and the environment are quite extensive spanning well over 25 years.

Please allow me to be blunt. Incinerating trash is an archaic and dangerous practice for people of all ages but particularly for children and our complex fragile ecosystem. This is not rocket-science, it is common sense. I was appalled when I learned that one of the most advanced states in the Union still insists on using this approach and is even contemplating pouring millions of tax dollars into subsidizing even more of it.

Delay tactics such as “more time to collect more data” are unfortunately one of the most abused methods of putting off important decisions and, in my experience overseeing environmental research both at the US and global level while at EPA, was often linked to clear conflicts of interest.

Let's please avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest here and do the correct, sustainable thing by promptly eliminating trash incineration in the enlightened State of Maryland – whether that is in our own backyard or someone else's.

Thank you,

Richard Hermann, MD, MPH, FCAP