

RE: Montgomery County's Trash Overhaul Plans

Council President Fani-Gonzalez and Council Members,

As a Montgomery County resident, I'm urging you to **approve the FY2027 budget plan to close the Dickerson trash incinerator by the end of this year.**

The plant is more than 30 years old and one of our county's biggest polluters. Recent tests showed alarming levels of dioxins and furans being released—chemicals with no safe exposure limit. Keeping it open means millions more in maintenance costs and continued harm to our air and our health.

Also, it is criminal to truck 150,000 tons of toxic incinerator ash every year to a majority-Black community in Virginia. We have a moral and environmental responsibility to end this practice now.

The Department of Environmental Protection has already shown that switching to modern, well-regulated landfills is safer, cost-effective, and far better for the environment. It's time to move forward with cleaner, more sustainable solutions like composting, recycling, and advanced waste processing.

Please act now—don't delay this decision another year. Our community deserves cleaner air and a safer future.

Sincerely,

Carol G. Baxter