

Subject: Support for Budget Approval to Close the Montgomery County Incinerator

Dear Members of the Council,

I am writing to urge you to approve the budget necessary to close the Montgomery County incinerator this year.

Continuing to allocate public funds toward maintaining a worn-out incinerator is not a prudent use of taxpayer resources. The facility has reached a point where ongoing expenditures primarily serve to sustain aging infrastructure rather than deliver efficient or reliable waste management. Investing further in a system that is clearly at the end of its lifecycle only compounds long-term costs.

At the same time, constructing a new incinerator is not a viable alternative. The capital costs associated with developing a modern facility are substantial and would impose a significant financial burden on the County, with uncertain long-term returns given evolving waste management practices and environmental standards.

More importantly, the current incinerator presents a clear public health concern. Reports of toxic leaks underscore the risks associated with continuing operations. These leaks are not isolated incidents—they are symptomatic of aging equipment and deferred maintenance. Each occurrence increases the likelihood of harm to nearby communities and the broader environment.

Importantly, viable alternatives already exist. Trucking options for waste disposal are available and can be implemented within this calendar year. This provides a practical, near-term pathway to transition away from the incinerator without disruption to essential services.

Finally, this is not an issue that requires further study. The County has already invested considerable time and resources in evaluating the incinerator and its alternatives. The evidence is clear, and the path forward has been well established.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage you to approve the budget to close the incinerator this year and move decisively toward safer, more cost-effective waste management solutions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
John Rockafellow