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Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill No. 404: AN ACT CONCERNING BUILDING PERMIT FEES FOR CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS FOR TRASH-TO-ENERGY FACILITIES.

Chairperson Osten, Chairperson Rojas and Members of the Committee: thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to the committee in opposition to Senate Bill No. 404: AN ACT CONCERNING BUILDING PERMIT FEES FOR CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS FOR TRASH-TO-ENERGY FACILITIES.

Toxics Action Center Campaigns is a public health and environmental non-profit organization that works side-by-side with communities to clean up and prevent pollution, while developing long-term citizen leaders. For many years, we have helped citizen groups across New England to engage and respond to contamination from a variety of sources, including waste and waste disposal. We have recently worked with residents in several communities across the state, including a group in Franklin that opposed the citing of an Ash landfill in their community.

We oppose subsidizing incineration. Setting a minimum price of 1 cent per kilowatt for Class II incinerator renewable energy credits would continue to encourage a process endangers public health.

Incinerators regularly release mercury, lead, PCB's, and dioxin (a persistent, highly toxic compound that accumulates increasingly up the food chain). In fact, incinerators are the number one source of dioxin world-wide, according to the EPA. These compounds have a clear, demonstrated, and profound negative impact on human health.

Over the past 40 years, Connecticut has invested considerable resources subsidizing this system that has the potential to negatively impact the health of its residents. We have locked ourselves into system that disincentivizes resource recovery and reuse. It is time to move forward and stop investing ever more resources in a process that endangers the health of Connecticut's families.

Thank you for your time.

Jeff Butke
Community Organizer
Toxics Action Center Campaigns