



## *Promoting stewardship in Frederick County*

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### **Waste Incinerator Will Put Taxpayer Dollars Up In Smoke**

Frederick, MD\_\_ Frederick County leaders are mulling a proposal to build an incinerator to deal with the region's trash amid mounting citizen concerns about subsidizing a project that may create more environmental headaches for the county. R.W. Beck, a consulting firm with ties to regional bonding authorities (the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority) was paid \$150,000 by Frederick County in October 2005 to look at ways to deal with the region's growing waste problem. Among their recommendations is the construction in Frederick County for a regional incinerator—a project that comes with an uncertain price tag (certain to exceed hundreds of millions) for local taxpayers but certain benefit to national firms—such as Beck—who stand to reap financial gains from the construction and management of a waste incinerator. Friends of Frederick County (FOFC), oppose the incinerator as a potentially costly and misguided option that could have longstanding impact on the area's fiscal and environmental health.

“The facts simply do not support a decision to build this enormously expensive machine. Doing so without considering any of the other viable and less expensive alternatives for our waste is irresponsible. We need a rational approach that protects human health, our environment and doesn't put us in the poor house,” said Douglas Pierce, a Board Member of FOFC. “Frederick County citizens deserve an independent assessment that takes a hard look at the long term impact of burning our waste, and examines other creative alternatives, such as composting and recycling that all too often are dismissed by industry-insiders.”

According to research by FOFC, states that have opted for incinerators have experienced mixed results at best. A case in point is Harrisburg, PA that is losing \$1 million a month on an incinerator, in addition to the \$14 million that must be spent to fix an unsuccessful \$80 million renovation in 2006. In Detroit, Michigan, a WTE (waste to energy) incinerator is scheduled to be closed down in 2009; concerns over the technology have led Delaware to implement laws restricting facility location and California has banned the technology altogether. No new WTE incinerators have been built in the United States since the early 1990's.

FOFC will be circulating a petition calling for a comprehensive and independent study of the WTE option, as well as all the alternatives to it. For more information contact:  
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