



*Cork Harbour Alliance for a Safe Environment  
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Mr. Dick Roche, T.D.

Minister of the Environment and Local Government,  
Government Buildings,  
Upper Merrion St.  
Dublin 2.

27.10.04

Dear Minister,

Please find enclosed signatories to a petition asking the Government for a moratorium on the introduction of mass burn incineration into Ireland.

The premature introduction of mass burn as a means of waste management is of grave concern to many people, considering we in Ireland have one of the lowest recycling rates in Europe. We as a country have an opportunity to deal with our waste in an intelligent manner, promoting recycling, reduction, product redesign and most importantly of all waste prevention. Such thinking is fully in line with both E.U and National Policy

The introduction of mass burn at this stage, would hinder the success of the afore-mentioned methods of dealing with our waste. There will be little incentive to reduce waste volumes when there are incinerators to be fed,

It is estimated that we could reduce waste to landfill by as much as 70%, without ever introducing incineration. This point was made at the recent National Waste Management Summit by a promoter of mass incineration and has also been documented by international waste consultants. Why not make a 100% commitment of going down the road of non-burn technologies , dealing with our waste using modern means and avoiding the inherent problems that many countries are now facing from incineration.

We are at a cross roads where we should look at waste as a commodity and resource, which has the potential to create sustainable employment,

Ireland is an agricultural country and has an image of good food, grown in the cleanest air in western Europe. This trend should be encouraged and enhanced by not resorting to incineration but looking to deal with our waste using safer, better technologies.

When we have exhausted and put into practice such technologies, then we can review our situation in relation to mass-burn, by which time it will hopefully be obsolete..

We trust you will take these petitions into consideration and would now like to formally request a meeting with you, to discuss the above issues, at your earliest convenience.

Yours Sincerely,

Mary O' Leary  
Chairperson, C.H.A.S.E.