

THE RT HON ANDREW MURRISON MD MP

18 July 2024

The Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP
Secretary of State for the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs
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Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs.

I note that ‘creating a roadmap to move Britain to a zero-waste economy’ is a priority for you. I agree that we must reduce, reuse, and recycle waste.

To that end, I believe that preventing the construction of more waste incinerators is vital. A moratorium to that effect is already in place across Scotland and Wales, and introducing one in England would help to achieve the residual waste reduction targets in the Environment Act. Incinerating waste means it cannot be recycled, weakening the transition to a zero-waste economy that we would both wish to see, and it produces air pollution contrary to HM Government’s ambitions to tackle climate change and decarbonise the National Grid.

A waste burner is planned in Westbury which already contains an Air Quality Management Area. The proposal is hugely unpopular locally, as are incinerators nationally.

Therefore, I would urge you to match my party’s election manifesto commitment: ‘We will prevent new waste incinerators being built, including those with recent permit approvals, revoking those where substantial construction has not taken place. This recognises the impact on local communities and that increased recycling rates will reduce the need for incineration capacity in the longer term.’

I look forward to your response.

Serving South West Wiltshire

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