

Nebraskans deserve healthy alternative to incineration

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Given a new hazardous waste incinerator has not been approved anywhere in the U.S. for a generation, I am concerned and surprised to read about the massive incinerator proposed for the former Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant west of Grand Island. If approved, it would process up to 15,000 tons of munitions per year, including HC smoke grenades. Zinc oxide (military designation, HC or HC smoke) is a toxic chemical warfare obscurant.

There are proven and readily-available alternatives to incineration, due in good part to the need for safe, cost-effective means to dispose of our nation's chemical weapons stockpile. These technologies are not only safer for your community, but they are also safer for the family members who may be employed for this work.

Like you, the environment in our rural Wisconsin farming community has been profoundly damaged by historical activities at a nearby former Army ammunition plant. This experience led us to help organize a national campaign calling for an end to open air burning and incineration of hazardous waste munitions everywhere.

Already, 56 environmental, health, labor, social justice and veterans service organizations have endorsed the Cease Fire Campaign goal statement. Please join us in demanding the same advanced technologies that have been deployed in non-rural affluent communities elsewhere. This is not the time for the Midwest Nice.

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