



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NEWTON

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February 27, 2013

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Mr. John Fischer
Mass DEP
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108
Sent via email to: dep.swm@state.ma.us

RE: Revision to the Draft Solid Waste Master Plan

Dear Mr. Fischer:

The League of Women Voters of Newton is opposed to the plan to lift the 22-year moratorium on new incineration facilities and to build new facilities, including variations of incineration such as gasification and pyrolysis. Our understanding is that cuts in staffing at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) have resulted in a serious lack of enforcement of existing waste bans.

League members attended the MassDEP meeting on December 4th, 2012 at which several residents of the towns of South Hadley and Barre documented repeated violations of waste bans. We learned that in the last three years the MassDEP has issued only three penalties for waste ban violations.

The solution to an anticipated shortfall of landfill space is strict enforcement of the current waste bans, with meaningful fines. The fines could then be used to pay inspectors to fund MassDEP enforcement activities and enhance community and state recycling and reuse programs.

Very sincerely,

Anne Swingle Borg and Sue Flicop
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of Newton

Cc: State Sen. Cynthia Creem
State Rep. Ruth Balser
State Rep. Kay Khan
State Rep. John Lawn