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Submission by Cllr. Jo Kelleher—Mayor of PassageWest Town Council,

I am against the proposed incinerator for Ringaskiddy,

EU Directive due to be announced in June,

The European Commission is in the process of considering changes to the EU's Waste Framework Directive. They want to clarify when "a waste becomes a waste." This means that waste streams that are now classified as waste could be declassified, if they pose a low danger to the environment and if they could be re-used in the same way as virgin materials. In light of these new directives to be announced in June, I submit that granting this license for the Ringaskiddy incinerator is not only premature, it will prove embarrassing in the long run.

Narrowing the waste definition could significantly cut the EU's official waste output. Such a move would be strongly welcomed, for example, by scrap material collectors and their clients, who have long argued that their business involves secondary raw materials, not waste.

Operators of waste treatment facilities such as incinerators would then fear a loss of supplies to fuel their plants.

We are poised on the brink of a new eco-revolution. Many of the world's industries are about to be transformed, not because of altruism, but because of shifting paradigms in view of the fact that mankind is now facing the three greatest environmental threats; which are: Pollution, Global Warming and Resource Depletion. The world is moving away from thinking of waste as rubbish to be buried or burned to thinking of it as a valuable resource that can generate jobs.

Surely it is common sense to recover as much as possible from the waste stream, rather than burying or burning. Resource Recovery communities around the world are discovering that it is completely possible to recover 90% of waste. The green industry, in particular recycling, represents the fourth largest economic power in the world; and it is the most rapidly

growing. Resource Recovery creates jobs. In the U.S., the reuse and recycling industries support more than 56,000 establishments, employ over 1.1 million people, and generate annual revenues of 236 billion dollars. Sorting and processing recyclables sustains five to ten times more jobs than land-filling or incineration.

I submit; therefore, that burning waste is totally unnecessary:

- not just because of the fact that we would be wantonly destroying valuable resources;
- not just because of the fact that these days there are many more modern non-burn alternative treatments for hazardous waste;
- Not just the fact that incineration will always pose a threat to health, land, water and air at a time when the world cannot afford to increase any emissions in view of the fact that Global Warming is no longer a threat, but a reality;
- we should also consider the expense of building and insuring them; I have it on good authority that the insurance quotes would be phenomenal; obviously, this suggests that they do, in fact, pose an environmental and health threat;
- and last, but not least, even if they have managed to perfect incineration with improved flue gas technologies, they are only ever perfecting a bad idea, when there exists today so many innovative and income-generating ways of managing our valuable resources.

Mr. Joe Kelleher