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What is council thinking?

Durham Region is known as a place of beautiful farmland, hiking trails and quaint family communities. Little suburbs dot the landscape with families that have settled in neighbourhood that make them feel at home. These characteristics leave one asking why Durham Region would approve an incinerator in the midst of all this beauty? It begs the question, why place an Energy From Waste facility in the middle of suburbia?

While both York and Durham have claimed to have conducted numerous studies on the nearly \$300 million dollar facility, they have failed to listen to the people. Numerous meetings were held where people had the opportunity to voice their opinion. It wasn't a lack of effort when it came to informing the public, but it was a lack of effort when it came to listening to what the people had to say. Doesn't it speak volumes when more than 70 people come to speak on the same issue at a council meeting? Doesn't it tug at the heartstrings when a woman splays her kids asthma medications and inhalers on the table? Do the tears mean nothing?

Of those who spoke to region officials on the matter, only two people, besides the company in charge of building the incinerator, were for it. There is no conclusive evidence either way whether the facility is toxic or not and it is going to cost a lot of money to find out, most of which is being ponied up by taxpayers. This is not to say that nothing needs to be done with the garbage. Clearly, there is an issue, but what about another location? There are rural areas throughout the province that would be better suited for an incinerator, areas further away from homes where children grow. While the councillors who voted in favour of the incinerator clearly know they are taking their chances with the public they represent, they must see something in building the incinerator that the public fails to see. Perhaps it's dollar signs.

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