

Good morning. My name is Rebekah Creshkoff, and I live in the town of Delaware.

I'm really pleased that today you passed a resolution in support of the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, which has been introduced in the New York State Legislature. Thank you for moving so swiftly on this.

There are also actions this legislature can take to reduce waste right here in Sullivan County. I and others will be back in coming weeks and months to tell you more about them.

But today I want to speak briefly about something that came up at the Economic Development Committee meeting on February 7th. Mark Baez of the Partnership for Economic Development mentioned a company, Aries Clean Technologies, that purports to destroy PFAS in sewage sludge.

As you might imagine, a number of start-ups are trying to develop ways to destroy PFAS. I've just begun looking into this company's technology and have learned that it involves two different types of incineration processes.

So if some residents are opposed to building an incinerator to burn our own waste, you can be pretty sure they'll be up in arms about a company that will be looking to import PFAS-contaminated sewage sludge from other places to burn here.

Bear in mind that we are talking about a huge industrial facility. The company appears to have only one operational plant, in Linden, NJ — home to the second-largest oil refinery on the East Coast. You can check it out on Google Maps. Aries' neighbors there are tank farms, not dairy farms.

Which makes me wonder: Is this really the type of economic development we want to bring into Sullivan County?

Thank you.