## The World is Watching Rome

Over 100 leading waste experts and activists from 52 countries:

> Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus. D.R. Congo, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Panama, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales), USA, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

have signed a letter addressed to the Citizens of Rome (see below).

The letter warns Rome's citizens and decision-makers of the impending economic and environmental disaster that would befall Rome should the mayor sign a 33 year "put or pay" agreement needed to finance a proposed 600,000 ton per year municipal waste incinerator.

Many of these experts have added personal statements explaining their opposition to incineration in general and the Rome incinerator in particular.

## Letter to Citizens of Rome

We appeal to the citizens of Rome to stop Mayor Roberto Gualtieri's project to build a hugely expensive, unsafe and unsustainable incinerator to burn Rome's municipal waste. In the 21st century, we should be shutting down old incinerators, not building new ones.

This matter is extremely urgent. The Rome authorities are planning to sign a disastrous "put or pay" agreement committing taxpayers to pay more than 200 Euros per ton for the 600,000 tons it will burn each year for the next 33 years! Note the 200 Euros per ton fee includes the penalty Rome will have to pay Europe for CO 2 emissions from the incinerator, in addition to estimated capital and operating costs.

"Put or pay" means you, the taxpayers of Rome, will have to pay that fee, whether or not you deliver 600,000 tons of waste per year. This is an economic trap from which you will not be able to escape. Such agreements have made it impossible for US cities to build trash incinerators. Those that have done so have found themselves importing waste, even hazardous waste, to offset the enormous cost involved.

And for what? This is neither a safe nor sustainable solution for Rome's waste. Incineration is in conflict with the urgent need to move from a Linear to a Circular economy. Zero Waste Italy has been pioneering this effort worldwide. Two thousand Italian communities have reduced their waste by over 80% and some by over 90%. Rome should be supporting these efforts, not threatening them! About 50% of Rome's waste is biodegradable, and Milan has shown that such waste can be safely and efficiently collected for biological treatment for a fraction of the cost of incineration.

Incineration poses a public health threat because it emits dioxins and other chlorinated, brominated and fluorinated by-products, which are extremely toxic and highly persistent in both the human body and the environment. Moreover, these toxics, as well as heavy metals like lead, are concentrated on the surface of trillions of minute particles called nanoparticles (less than one micron in diameter). Although these nanoparticles are unregulated and difficult to capture, they penetrate the lung membrane and reach every tissue in the body. These dangers have been largely hidden from Rome's citizens, because the incinerator is not being planned for the centre of Rome, but over 20 km away in Albano. The citizens of Albano do not want this incinerator, but those behind this project consider them expendable. This is a shameful environmental injustice.

To justify the incinerator, the mayor has cited the fact that next year Rome will be playing host to millions of Christian pilgrims, who are expected to generate a further 150,000 tons of waste per year. But the incinerator will not be built in time for them. Nevertheless, we do not believe these pilgrims would want to be used as an excuse for such a shameful project. Hopefully, they will remind Rome that "God Recycles and the Devil Burns!"

Finally, we believe that this project will deprive your children of the hope of living in a city with a sustainable future. No matter what problems you are facing, they will become far worse if you deprive your children of hope. Please do not let your mayor approve this incinerator. Please do not tarnish the image of your beautiful and historic city.

| **COUNTRY** | **SIGNER, ORGANIZATION** | **COMMENT** |
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| **Argentina** | Cecilia Bianco, Coordinator, **Taller Ecologista.** *Rosario.* | |
| **Argentina** | Claudio Lowy, PhD Forestry Engineer. Chair, **Bios Argentina** ( www.bios.org.ar ). Tandil. | |
| **Argentina** | Dr. Raúl Montenegro, Biologist, Full Professor of Human Evolutionary Biology, National University of Cordoba and recipient of the Alternative Nobel Prize2004 (Right Livelihood Award, Sweden). | |

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| **Australia** | Jane Bremmer, Chair, **Toxics Free Australia**, Campaign Coordinator, **Zero Waste Australia**. *Perth.* | "How disappointing to see Rome of all places, considering a waste incinerator, given the progressive advice and policies of the European Commission which encourages its member states to decommission old incinerators and not build new ones. Instead, Rome should take this advice which includes supporting a Zero Waste City Model - something that is essential to curb the global threat of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), toxic air pollution and hazardous waste. Incinerators create these dangerous pollutants and residues, which are the subject of at least three global conventions. This is a dangerous, out-dated industry that threatens our climate, health, environment, human rights and the promise of a sustainable and regenerative Circular Economy future." |
| **Australia** | Gerry Gillespie, **Returning Organics to Soil.** *Queanbeyan.* | |
| **Austria** | Daniela Hinteregger, **Zero Waste Austria.** *Vienna.* | |
| **Austria** | Evelyn Rath, **Zero Waste Austria.** *Gratwein-Strassengel.* | |
| **Belgium** | Esra Tat, **Zero Waste Europe.** *Brussels.* | "Throughout history, Rome has shown the world the way forward on countless fronts. It is a pity that the city wishes to turn back the clock and adopt an approach that perpetuates a linear, throwaway economy, out of step with modern principles of zero waste and a sound use of our resources. No citizen should have to bear the long-term financial, environmental and health consequences of this choice. Rome, you have the opportunity to be on the right side of history by rejecting outdated incineration and pioneering a true circular economy model. Don't miss it!" |
| **Brazil** | Beth Grimberg, **Instituto Polis.** | |
| **Bulgaria** | Danita Zarichinova, **Environmental Association Za Zemiata.** *Sofia.* | "We did not allow an incinerator in Sofia, we will not allow one in Rome." |
| **Canada** | Liz Benneian, **Ontario Zero Waste Coalition** (OZWC). | "OZWC successfully fought incinerator proposals in several cities in Ontario and Quebec. Incineration is not a solution to waste generation. It is also extremely dangerous to the people's health and extremely harmful to the environment. …Rome is an amazing city — truly one of humankind's treasures. I have visited Rome many times and hope to return again. The idea that you would turn waste that could mostly be recycled or composted into air pollution, greenhouse gases and toxic ash, rather than doing the work of reducing waste, recycling and composting makes me extremely sad and throws a long shadow over a city I remember as one of the world's wonders." |

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| **Canada** | Wendy Bracken, Director, **Durham Environment Watch** (DEW). Clarington, Durham, Ontario. | "Please don't fall for false claims of safety and "clean" emissions. Incineration fails and hurts communities and the planet on every front – health and environment, climate, economics, and sustainability. We have lived with and have closely followed a publicly owned, Covanta-operated incinerator in our Region since its start-up in 2015. One of our major issues here has been emissions and monitoring, especially regarding highly toxic dioxins/furans. We have had several dioxin/furan emission stack exceedances as well as an unexplained ambient air exceedance near the incinerator. Citizens here lobbied hard for long-term sampling of dioxins/furans (AMESA is used here), but all the AMESA data from 2015 to 2019 has been withheld from the public as well as the host municipality, despite our and their requests for it.<br>Since then, many months of AMESA data have been invalidated/ withheld. Even with the limited AMESA data released, the underlying reports are not provided so it is neither traceable nor transparent. The stack tests required by Canadian authorities for dioxins/furans are of very short duration (three 4-hour tests are averaged), they are pre-arranged and conducted only twice a year under steady-state conditions. We cannot rely on them to protect us. Dioxin emissions can be much higher during other operational conditions including start-ups, shutdowns, and malfunctions… A recent soil test here reported a dioxin level more than twice the pre-incinerator level. Bioaccumulation of dioxins in the environment and food supply is a major concern. It should be to you and your agricultural producers in Italy. I hope you will work hard and stop this major incinerator project from tainting your air, water, soil and fine reputation." |
| **Canada** | Linda Gasser, Co-founder, **Zero Waste 4 Zero Burning.** *Whitby, Durham region, Ontario.* | "I would like to say to the Mayor of Rome, I visited your beautiful city in 1989, please don't do this to your citizens, or to yourselves….I have lived with a Covanta operated incinerator since it fired up in 2015 -officially known as the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC…The incinerator consumes huge amounts of dollars, staff time and resources and costs have starved the budgets of essential services…The incinerator failed stack tests for dioxins and furans in 2015 and 2016. In addition to air pollution, the DYEC is Durham Region's largest source of corporate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Durham Region WILL NOT meet their GHG reduction targets for as long as they burn garbage." (see Wendy Bracken above for more details on dioxin |
| **Canada** | Sue Maxwell, Chair, **Zero Waste British Columbia.** *Whistler.* | *"Please* do not make the mistake of pursuing waste incineration. It is harmful for the climate, very expensive and displaces far better solutions that can reduce consumption and the environmental harms of resource extraction. Our recent research has shown that the use of incineration for Metro Vancouver has been an expensive mistake that has significantly delayed more action to move to zero waste." |

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| **Canada** | Judith Spence, ND, RN, **Citizens of the Pontiac (CoP).** *Pontiac, Quebec.* | "The Citizens of the Pontiac stopped a mega incinerator that one mayor…who the incinerator company used to shoehorn its way into our community... rather than use the slightly harder, yet so liberating and so responsible method of Zero Waste management these Mayors always want the easy way out." |
| **Chile** | Maria Jose Garcia Bellalta, **The Tree Foundation**. *Concepcion.* | |
| **Chile** | Magdalena Donoso, Regional Coordinator, **GAIA in Latin America.** | |
| **Chile** | Mariela Pino Donoso, Latin America and the Caribbean **Waste methane climate campaigner at GAIA.** *El Monte.* | "Its way clear that humanity does not need any more pollution, nor stay numbed in regard to waste generation and wasteful consumption of goods and services. The world has the eyes on Rome for its beauty and magnificent architectural history; and the old continent has clear evidence of how harmful this burning technology is for human and animal wellbeing." |
| **Chile** | Macarena G. Mavroski, Cities Program Manager, **Zero Waste** | |
| **Chile** | Alejandra Parra Muñoz, legal representative, **Red de Acción por los Derechos** | |
| **Colombia** | Nohra Padilla, **National Association of Recyclers of Colombia** (ANR). *Bogotá.* | "We support the rejection of the incinerator in Rome, to remember that the devil burns and God recycles... at this point in humanity, predatory technologies are not acceptable. In Bogotá, Colombia, the implementation of an incinerator was rejected due to the enormous costs of its construction Technological, cultural and humanitarian advances must serve to contain pollution and provide the earth with new forms of development." |
| **Croatia** | Marko Košak, **Zelena akcija / Zero Waste Croatia.** | "I hope you will stop the incinerator in the beautiful city of Rome and implement 14/10/." |
| **Cyprus** | Sara Mariza Vryonidi, **Friends of the Earth.** *Limassol.* | "Incineration might offer short-term waste management solutions, but it undermines zero-waste efforts by promoting disposal over reduction and reuse. Cities like Rome, with their rich history and cultural influence, have a unique opportunity to lead by embracing sustainable, circular models that honor both the past and the future." |

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| **Democratic Republic of Congo** | Kaozi Michel Mbungulunga, Co-Founder, ***Fercomex-Tcn.*** | "DO NOT let Rome burn!<br>We are categorically against incineration at all levels. It contributes to global warming.<br>If Italy opts for this practice, the pollution will affect other nations too. We breathe the same air despite the distances that separate us. 'The earth is a nation and we are all citizens of that nation.'<br>We are called to stand together as one family and protect the planet that our children have lent us. Their healthy return." |
| **El Salvador** | Ricardo Navarro, ***CESTA Friends of the Earth****.* | |
| **Estonia** | Marianne Lõhmus, CEO & Board member, **Zero Waste Estonia SA** (former Let's Do It Foundation). | "As we continue our mission to advocate for zero waste and systemic change, we stand in solidarity with the citizens of Rome in opposing the construction of a massive incinerator. Waste incineration is an outdated and dangerous technology that not only harms the environment but also undermines the progress we've made toward a circular economy.<br>Zero Waste Estonia is committed to helping communities reduce waste at its source and implement sustainable, long-term solutions. The proposed incinerator threatens to undo years of work toward a more sustainable future. Let's ensure that Rome follows the footsteps of other zero-waste cities and invests in solutions that protect public health and the environment." |
| **France** | Elizabet Pasciak, *Strasbourg.* | |
| **Germany** | Michael Cieslik, **Zero Waste Bad Vilbel e.V.** *Cologne.* | "We have better solutions, than putting valuable materials into the incinerators." |
| **Germany** | Marianne Reichel, **Zero Waste Bad Vilbel e.V.** *Bad Vilbel* | |
| **Greece** | Antigone Dalamaga, **Oikologiki Etairia Anakiklosis** | "Focusing on the top 3 tiers of the waste hierarchy - prevention, reuse and recycling – is a more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable option and a win-win-win scenario for Rome and its citizens. Comparatively, incineration is a lose-lose-lose scenario." |
| **Hong Kong** | Angus Ho, Executive Director, ***Greeners Action****.* | |
| **Hungary** | György Szabó, **Humusz Szövetség.** *Budapest.* | "There are plans to build one in the coming years in Hungary as well, unfortunately." |

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| **India** | Santanu Chacraverti, **Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action (DISHA).** *Kolkata.* | |
| **India** | Sasanka Dev, **Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action (DISHA).** *Kolkutta*. | |
| **India** | Jayakumar Chelaton, Executive Director, **Thanal Trust. Zero Waste Kerala.** | |
| **Indonesia** | Abdul Ghofar, Pollution and Urban Justice Campaigner, **WALHI/Friends of the Earth Indonesia**. | |
| **Indonesia** | Yobel Novian**,** Climate Policy Officer, **Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives.** *Putra, Bandung.* | "Our cities have learned a lot from Rome on how to adopt a zero waste system that follows the waste hierarchy without incineration a decade ago. It is very infuriating to know that Rome considered incineration which will contradict with the beautiful and inspiring zero waste model Italy has been developing for years there. Incineration has been very problematic in both global north and south countries, both in terms of its climate and health impact to the people of the city. We have seen in Europe and the US how incineration is polluting the air and soils with toxic heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants, such as dioxins. The EU has stopped new Waste-to-Energy incineration projects in the EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities as it may harm one of the key environmental objectives, that is to ensure the transition to a circular economy… (we need to exclude) any activity leading to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials in one or more stages of the life-cycle of products, including in terms of durability, reparability, upgradability, reusability or recyclability of products; or where that activity leads to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste.<br><br>Rome should not follow a path that leads us to a faster ecological collapse and societal degradation." |
| **Ireland** | Linda Fitzpatrick, **Cork Harbour Alliance for a Safe Environment.** *Cork.* | "This is such a dismay as Rome has been an inspiration to us in trying to stop a large Hazardous Waste Incinerator in Cork Harbour for the last 23 years and still counting. It's a shame to see again and again proof of just how strong the build and burn lobby is." |

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| **Malaysia** | Mageswari Sangaralingam, Chief Executive, **Consumers' Association of Penang**. *Georgetown.* | “This is terrible news. Malaysia too is embarking on a WTE push, under the pretext of circular economy and renewable energy (which it is neither!). We are fighting these proposals now with other groups and communities.” |
| **México** | Marisa Jacott, **Fronteras Comunes**. *Mexico City.* | “In Mexico, the way the government and industry are promoting incineration and co-processing in cement kilns is under the guise of recycling and reducing methane emissions... this is extremely regrettable as it is a false solution.” |
| **México** | Aidee Mares, **Apaztle Foundation**. *Apaxco.* | |
| **México** | Larisa de Orbe, **Red Mexicana de Acción Ecológica.** | |
| **México** | Jose Manuel Arias Rodriguez, **Santo Tomas Ecological Association, ACH**. Tabasco, *Cardenas.* | |
| **Monaco** | Olga Von Kirschten, **Super Planet Savers.** *Monaco.* | |
| **Montenegro** | Vanja Cicmil, **Zero Waste Montenegro.** Podgorica. | |
| **Mozambique** | Anabela Lemos, **JAIFOE**. *Maputo.* | |

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| **Nepal** | Shrawasti Karmacharya, Program Manager, **Health Environment and Climate Action Foundation (HECAF360).** *Kathmandu.* | "HECAF360 is a pioneer organization in Nepal for promoting the non-burn technology. We have shut down the incinerators in health sectors and advocated vigorously for its ban in Nepal. In this regard, the National Government has discouraged the open burning as well as incineration of waste through the inclusion of prohibition of incinerator in National guidelines and clauses published in National Gazettes. Similarly, HECAF360 is also piloting the zero waste schools, hospitals, municipalities where the waste is converted into the resources and has become a way of revenue generation. In contrary to this, the burning of waste is against the circular economy and focuses on the "cradle to grave" system. While Capannori (first Zero Waste city) in Italy has been an inspiring city for more than 400 EU municipalities and even HECAF360 on the zero waste path, the news of accepting an incinerator in Rome is disheartening, as advocates for non-burn technology, we stand united for a pollution-free future and hope to see Rome reject the proposal hence inspiring other cities to move towards the Zero waste rather than burning waste as a false |
| **Nepal** | Mahesh Nakarmi, Executive Director, **Health Environment and Climate Action Foundation (HECAF360).** *Kathmandu.* | |
| **New Zealand** | Liam Prince, Chair**, Aotearoa Plastic Pollution** | |
| **Nicaragua** | Elizabeth Sequeira Orozco, **Young Environmentalists,** *Managua.* | "We greet you from Nicaragua, and hereby express our solidarity with your struggle. In Nicaragua we are beginning strong commercial activities as a result of the trade agreement between the Government of Nicaragua and the Government of China. In addition, there are waste incinerators for tires, cement, sugar cane and free trade zones. The outlook is sad, but we believe that with organization, training, and information management, people can react to the danger of incineration and burning of garbage." |
| **Phiippines** | Albrecht Arevalo, Climate and Anti-Incineration Campaigner for **Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives - Asia** | |

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| **Phiippines** | Sonia S. Mendoza, Chairman, **Mother Earth Foundation**. Quezon City. | **"Zero waste** solutions, and **not incineration**, are the fastest and most economical in solving solid waste problems. Huge reduction of waste management costs, cleaner and greener surroundings, better public health and better livelihood for waste workers are realized in hundreds of cities and municipalities in Italy and around the world.<br>"To Mayor Roberto Gualtieri: let not the glory and history of Rome be destroyed by this monster incinerator!" |
| **Phiippines** | Joey and Annette Papa,<br>**Bangon Kalikasan (Rise Up Nature) Movement.** | "After feeding the multitudes who had gathered to listen to Jesus, from a mere five loaves of bread<br>and three fish, He told his apostles to gather up the pieces left uneaten, for nothing should ever<br>go to waste. Only Satan burns. God recycles. Rome, as the center of the universal or Catholic<br>Church, should uphold the integrity of Creation." |
| **Philppines** | Von Hernandez, Global Coordinator, ***Break Free From Plastic*** **(BFFP).** *Quezon City.* | "It would be a regrettable step backward for Rome to proceed with plans to build an incinerator to deal with its municipal waste, especially when there are sustainable, safe and economically superior zero waste programs and alternatives that the city can implement and lead with. To resolve this crisis effectively. Rome should take measures to seriously reduce the amount of problematic, especially disposable packaging materials like single use plastics - and intensify efforts to improve waste segregation for purposes of composting and recycling. This is the direction of travel needed at a time when the world is facing the multiple and interconnected crises of climate change, toxic pollution and biodiversity loss." |
| **Poland** | Piotr Barczak, **Polish Zero Waste Association.** *Koszalin.* | "There is no place for waste incinerators in the XXIst century!" |
| **Portugal** | Marta Brazão, **Circular Economy Portugal.** *Lisbon.* | |
| **Republic of Korea** | Doun Moon, Policy and Research Officer, **Global Alliance for Incinerators Alternatives**. *Seoul.* | "Incineration doesn't make waste magically disappear. It merely transforms the waste into other forms of pollution, such as toxic air emissions, ash, and wastewater, while emitting large amounts of greenhouse gases into the air. What makes waste disappear is zero waste solutions led by local communities, which address the waste problem at the source and maximize waste diversion. I'm sad and deeply concerned to see Rome considering such a polluting, wasteful, capital-intensive, and unjust technology, which would undermine grassroots efforts that have been leading the way on zero waste for decades in Italy and beyond." |
| **Republic of Panama** | Marisol Landau, **FAS PANAMA.** *Panama City.* | "I thought it was only in Latin America, that Incineration and co-incineration methodologies are gaining momentum, but I see that even in EU members this decision is being made to the detriment of the health and environment of one of the most emblematic cities of the old continent." |

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| **Romania** | Elena Rastel, **Zero Waste Romania.** *Bucharest.* | |
| **Senegal** | Aminata Farima Tidjani, **Adansonia Green.** *Dakar.* | |
| **Slovakia** | Branislav Moňok, Chair & waste expert, **Friends of the Earth – SPZ.** *Haluzice.* | |
| **Slovenia** | Barbara Kirn, **Ekologi Brez Meja**. *Ljubljana.* | |
| **Slovenia** | Jaka Kranjc, **Društvo Ekologi Brez Meja.** *Ljubljana.* | |
| **Slovenia** | Ema Otavnik, **Ecologists without Borders**. *Ljubljana.* | |
| **Slovenia** | Žaklina Žnajder, **Ekologi Brez Meja**. *Maribor.* | |
| **South Africa** | Niven Reddy, **Africa Regional Coordinator for *GAIA*.** *Durban.* | |
| **South Africa** | Keith Roman, **Zero Waste Association of South Africa.** | "South Africa is facing a similar onslaught from international incinerator lobby groups who are exploiting our landfill crisis and energy needs. These lobby groups are supported by large financial institutions and therefore we need much more proactive advocacy work to nip this problem In the bud. Due to the large sums of money involved in these transactions (much of which are under the table), protest actions, albeit very important, are usually insufficient to stop these transactions. There is a need for a more proactive strategy which includes a reserve of funds for possible legal action as a deterrent." |

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| **South Africa** | Sitara Thaver, Environmental Coordinator, **Environment and Language Education Trust (ELET).** *KwaZulu-Natal province.* | "As the Environment and Language Education Trust (ELET), we strongly believe that a healthy environment is vital for the development and well-being of all sentient beings. We recognize the far-reaching ramifications of policy decisions made without considering these interests, and are disturbed by the current worldwide trend of promoting incineration as a waste management tool as all countries share the same environment to our mutual detriment or benefit. We represent a small NPO from South Africa, yet we would like to add our name to this worthwhile cause." |
| **Spain** | Marta Beltran **Rezero.** *Barcelona.* | |
| **Spain** | Dr. Josep (Pep) Puig i Boix, **Alternativa Verda.** *Barcelona, Catalonia.* | "When I was elected to the city council of Barcelona (1995-1999) we were able to stop a big waste incinerator (600.000 tons per year) that the metropolitan area of Barcelona was planning to build." |
| **Spain** | Rosa Garcia, **Rezero - Waste Prevention Foundation.** *Barcelona.* | |
| **Spain** | César Sánchez, **Retoma.** | |
| **Sweden** | Pal Martenson, **Zero Waste International Alliance,** *Joteborg.* | |
| **Tanzania** | Mwadhini Myanza, Executive Director, ***Network: IRTECO.*** *Morogoro.* | |
| **UK – England** | Shlomo Dowen, National Coordinator, **UK Without Incineration Network** (UKWIN). *Mansfield.* | |
| **UK - Northern Ireland** | Mary McGuiggan, **ZeroWaste International Trust;** ***The Gathering Ireland;*** *and* ***Rights of Nature Ireland.*** | |
| **UK - Scotland** | Sorcha Dannsair, *Strathaven, Scotland.* | |

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| **UK – Wales** | Mal Williams, **ZeroWaste International Trust.** *Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan.* | *"Instead of addressing waste at its root—by reducing, reusing, and recycling materials—Rome is fueling a profit-driven industry that burns our resources for short-term financial gains at the expense of the environment and long-term sustainability...* A lot of anti-incineration campaigning focuses quite rightly on the 'bad neighbour' aspect, the pollution, the toxicity of the operation no matter how the industry presents its 'Energy from Waste' case – the fact is that incineration destroys valuable resources. It's simply a bad idea in the first place -just like landfill is. It's |
| **USA** | Ruth Abbe, President, ***Zero Waste USA*****.** *California.* | |
| **USA** | Richard Anthony, **Zero Waste San Diego and Zero Waste International.** *California.* | |
| **USA** | Neil Carman, PhD, ***Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter*** and 12 years working as a ***State of Texas Air Control Board*** **field investigator.** Austin, Texas | "As a *State of Texas Air Control Board* field investigator, I discovered during inspections ...that incineration is a failed destruction technology due to the high volumes of toxic air pollution, smoke plumes, acid gases, and toxic ash. Incinerators experienced repeated upset conditions and operational problems. I issued many serious violations to incinerator operators and pursued enforcement cases for permit violations. My conclusion is that zero waste methods are far superior to waste incinerators... Waste incineration must be avoided as these mechanical and electrical machines routinely suffer many types of operating problems... The City of Rome would be seriously polluted with a large municipal waste incinerator …and discourage tourists from visiting. Incineration is an antiquated |
| **USA and UK** | Ellen Connett, Editor, ***Waste Not*****,** 1986-2000. *Exeter, New Hampshire USA and Brighton, England.* | "As Editor of the weekly newsletter Waste Not, I covered the demise of the incinerator industry in the USA. Between 1986-1995, communities in the US stopped over 300 proposed municipal waste incinerators. Only one incinerator has been built in the US since 1997. It is heartbreaking to see Rome falling for the hype we helped to expose. Plainly speaking, incineration is a major source of toxic pollution, whereas alternatives to incinerators are not. We all need to work to make the future better for the next generation, not worse. Rome needs a good journalist to investigate who will be making money out of this |
| **USA and UK** | Paul Connett, PhD, former director**, Work on Waste, USA;** author, **Zero Waste Solution** (Chelsea Green, 2013). *Exeter, New Hampshire USA and Brighton, England.* | "I have visited and spoken in Rome many times since 1996 Incineration does not make sense in the 21st Century. Our task is not to get better at destroying resources but to stop making packaging and products that have to be destroyed. Waste is a design problem. Zero Waste Italy set up the first Zero Waste Research Center in 2010." |

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| **USA** | Judith Enck, President, **Beyond Plastics**, Former Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. | |
| **USA** | Mike Ewall, Executive Director, **Energy Justice Network.** | "We have documented that trash incineration is the most expensive and polluting way to manage waste or to make energy. It it more polluting than burning coal, and is 2-3 times as harmful to climate, health, and environment than going directly to landfill without burning the waste first. Incinerators make landfills more toxic by delivering ash to them instead of trash. There is no modern, high-tech way to burn trash to avoid these problems. It is a lose-lose situation. You can take an industry that is already the most expensive option and make it far more expensive by putting better air pollution controls on, which only moves some of the toxic pollutants from the air to the ash, making the ash more toxic. Landfills and zero waste solutions do not require you to produce a minimum amount of waste, but incinerators do. Any honest comparison shows that zero waste solutions are best for health, climate, environment, jobs, and taxpayers. Do the right thing." |
| **USA** | Tracy Frisch, Chair, **Clean Air Action** Network of Glens Falls (NY); Coordinator of **Zero Waste Warren County.** *New York.* | “The trash incinerator in Hudson Falls, NY, has made life miserable for residents living nearby since it started burning waste 33 years ago. Residents in the host community have been forced to live with horrific odors and serious health problems and things are getting worse as the incinerator gets old…During the 20 years of its Put or Pay contract, ending in 2011, the incinerator contract put an enormous strain on the finances of the 2 counties that owned it. The incinerator is now falling apart, with unpredictable deafening noises, disgusting odors, and harmful emissions that go through the pollution controls… Neither county uses the incinerator any more. Only private waste companies bring waste from those two counties and many others to be |
| **USA** | Richard Jannaccio, Chair, **Ecotoxicology Committee**, Vice Chair, **City of Binghamton Commission for Conservation of The Environment**. *New York.* | “Pollution is not a solution. Incineration in Rome can be predicted to have profound negative effects. Tourism will plummet. The health and longevity of Romans will decline. Please learn about how incinerators have affected other communities. Don't tarnish or destroy Rome’s special place in the world.” |

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| **USA** | Dan Knapp,<br>CEO, ***Urban Ore, Inc., a Material Recovery Enterprise.*** *Berkeley, California.* | **"Friends, you need a new Mayor there in Rome…**<br>**He's telling you that incineration is necessary and good. It's neither. It's a lie.** I'm a businessman and a capitalist. I have owned and operated a material recovery enterprise for 44 year... We started in 1980 with nothing at the Berkeley landfill: no building, no roadworthy truck, no wage above $4.00 per hour. We earned our pay by selling stuff we found or helped customers to unload.<br><br>**Now our lowest paid worker makes over $21 per hour, and our managers make even more. We offer great benefits…**One reason we've grown as a labor-intensive business is that we share 15% of income twice a month, and profits twice a year. It's a winning formula. You could have something like that, but not if the incinerator gets built. Your resources will be made into pollution. Your tax and fee money will go into the pockets of billionaires…<br><br>**A City Council vote to build an incinerator in Berkeley in the 1980s took us by surprise. But we didn't give up. .. We used the instruments of democracy to force the city to do reuse, recycling, and composting instead.**<br><br>We didn't want our resource supply to go to a burn plant. Other recyclers with different niche business models jumped in with us, and a coalition was formed. Anti-burn quickly went statewide, then national, then international…The Berkeley voters handed the burn plant backers a thumping loss: 63% voted no. Reuse, recycling, and composting grew rapidly, here and all over, just as we predicted…<br><br>Has this crazy idea of burning the "discard supply" (which some people erroneously call waste) been put to a vote there in Rome?...Today our city is well on the way to achieving its goal of "Zero Waste, No Burn, No Bury." Urban Ore sends to landfill less than 1% of the thousands of tons we handle every year…<br><br>In California, only three incinerators ever got built (in 1985 they had plans for 35!), and the last of the three just announced it would close by early December, 2024…. **Good riddance to garbage burning, and best wishes to you. Do the right thing and stop the burn plant in its tracks. Then build Zero Waste Resource Recovery Parks everywhere you used to have landfills.** So please remember, when you open the door to "waste incineration," you close the door to reuse, recycling, and composting. I'm confident that you don't want that.<br><br>You can do it. You are Rome, one of the places that democracy |
| **USA** | Yayoi Koizumi,<br>founder, **Zero Waste Ithaca**. *New York.* | |

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| **USA** | Katie Lajoie, RN, **Working on Waste**. *Claremont, NH.* | "Working on Waste wishes to sign the letter. Our report on the now-closed Wheelabrator incinerator explains why incineration is dangerous. https://www.americanhealthstudies.org/wheelabrator-claremont.pdf " |
| **USA** | Nick Lapis, Director of Advocacy, **Californians Against Waste.** *San Francisco.* | |
| **USA** | Eric Lombardi, **Eco-Cycle International**, *Boulder, Colorado.* | **"Citizens of Rome Arise!** You must stop your Mayor, Roberto Gualtieri, from spending nearly 4,000,000,000 Euros to commit a crime against nature and your children. He wants to build a huge incinerator to burn Rome's trash for the next 33 years which will guarantee a future of toxic air emissions, polluted water and poisoned people. We |
| **USA** | Brenda Platt, Director, Composting for Community Project, **Institute for Local Self-Reliance.** *Washington, DC.* | "Know that there are alternatives to burning trash that build local economic wealth. Instead of stuffing the wallets of the packaging and incinerator companies, spur local reuse and composting operations that bring wealth to local businesses and strengthen the local economy. Rome can be a model for the rest of the world." |
| **USA** | Jim Puckett, **E**xecutive Director, **Basel Action Networ**k. A global toxics and waste leader for more than 35 years. *Seattle, Washington.* | 'I wrote an article (in the 1980s) that long ago called "Don't let Seattle get Burned". We did not go that route back then in Seattle and today with even more compelling scientific evidence why burning waste is always a bad idea, Rome should not go there either." |
| **USA** | Richard Ramcharitar, Founder, Director & Certified Zero Waste Associate, ***Broward Clean Air.*** *South Florida.* | "It's Not an Option, It's Our Right!"<br>There is no need to build trash incinerators anywhere. We are building a coalition of climate and zero waste professionals, environmental groups, EJ activists and Native American indigenous people to oppose building new MSW incinerators near to South Florida's populated communities, over precious wetlands and in close proximity to the environmentally sensitive wetland ecosystems of the Florida Everglades; which provides water for approximately 9 million people and diverse animal, reptile, fish, bird, insect and plant species in South Florida. Incineration byproducts of toxic emissions and ash will lead to environmental degradation and chronic health diseases amongst the human, plant and wildlife populations. We are proposing that our elected officials start by hiring certified zero waste consultants to help them develop a true zero waste plan which does not include incineration and other thermal technologies that will bring forth harm to the environment and public health. We have to work together to reduce waste and build a circular economy.<br>Please share this message with the officials in Rome, Italy. Please |

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| **USA** | Ted Schettler MD, MPH,<br>Science Director,<br>***Science and Environmental Health Network***. | |
| **USA** | Neil Seldman,<br>former director,<br>**Institute of Local Self Reliance**. Washington, DC. | "Zero Waste is both the means and end to conserving nature as we know it. The way to get to Zero Waste is to practice Zero Waste. We get there by taxing what we don't want, investing in what we do want, banning what is dangerous, and voting for Zero Waste Champions." |
| **USA** | Jane Williams,<br>Executive Director,<br>**California Communities Against Toxics.** *Rosamond.* | "Here in California, we are finally closing our last operating garbage incinerator. After centuries of burning waste in small incinerators at schools, in apartment buildings, in our environmental justice communities near residential communities, and in our rich agricultural regions, we have finally learned that burning waste solves nothing. We are embracing Zero Waste solutions, and restricting materials that are not truly recyclable. Residents of Rome: don't fall for it! Don't turn your skies into a landfill, destroy the gorgeous monuments to your incredible history with toxic gases, and squander your precious resources. Choose the Zero Waste Pathway and embrace the future as fully as you have embraced your past." |
| **USA** | Monica Wilson,<br>**Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)**.<br>*Berkeley, California.* | |
| **Venezuela** | Maria Eugenia Gil Beroes,<br>**Les deseamos éxito en la defensa de sus derechos.** *Caracas*. | |
| **Vietnam** | Xuan Quach,<br>Vietnam Director,<br>**Pacific Environment** and Coordinator,<br>**Vietnam Zero Waste Alliance.** *Danang.* | |