



April 16, 2026

Transmitted via email only

The Honorable Dan McKee
Governor, State of Rhode Island
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor McKee,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to and present additional background and context to the concerns raised by the Town of North Kingstown in its April 15, 2026, letter to you from the Town Manager regarding the proposed biosolids project at the Quonset Business Park.

The central theme of the Town's letter is that the process surrounding the QSS Biosolids project was somehow flawed or inadequate. In fact, the public consideration of this project, with the full public participation of Councilman Matt McCoy and former Councilman Larry Mandel, the town's appointees to the board at the time, followed the same established procedures the Quonset Development Corporation has used successfully on behalf of Rhode Island for more than two decades.

As a long-time supporter of Quonset, you are aware of how beneficial this approach has been for Rhode Islanders. Today, over 250 companies supporting more than 15,000 jobs, including one of every four manufacturing jobs in our state, call Quonset home. These jobs pay significantly higher wages than the state average and generate \$2 billion annually in household income for Rhode Island families. Quonset also generates \$189 million in annual tax revenue, in addition to nearly \$15 million in property taxes and PILOT payments for North Kingstown alone. Meanwhile, Quonset's Port of Davisville continues to be one of the Top 10 auto importers in North America, while the port plays a key role in supporting the offshore wind industry. It's no wonder Quonset is ranked as one of the ten best business parks in the nation.

While we understand the concerns raised by the town, the timeline for the project tells the full story.

The public board meeting was posted on November 15, 2024, in compliance with state law: <https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/Common/DownloadMeetingFiles?FilePath=\Notices\4979\2024\510057.pdf>

Concurrent with the posting of the meeting of November 19, 2024, a 7-page summary of the proposal was included in the public 87-page Quonset “board book” provided the board members for that meeting. This detailed summary was public before the meeting and available to the public during the meeting and afterwards. Anything in it, including in this case a specific mention of pyrolysis and the conditions for the lease to be signed, was public at the time and appropriate to discuss in public at the meeting. In short, there was no restraint, legal or otherwise, from discussing anything in the public summary of the proposal once it was made available prior to the meeting. Indeed, the information served as the basis for a lengthy public debate that included Councilmen McCoy and Mandel about the proposal in open public session at the board meeting.

Historically, it has been the role of the North Kingstown appointees to the QDC board to act as a liaison to the town government, and its citizens. Unfortunately, that duty was apparently not fulfilled in this case. It’s also worth noting that at the March 30, 2026, Town Council meeting the Town Manager acknowledged that Councilman McCoy had made him aware of the project, and the vote, in the days immediately following the November 19, 2024, QDC board meeting. (Special Town Council meeting, March 30, 2026, https://northkingstown.granicus.com/player/clip/1562?view_id=3&redirect=true 2:31:25)

The town’s letter also leaves out important context about the role of the joint QDC/Town Technical Review Committee in this project. The TRC is comprised of The Managing Director of the QDC, the Director of Development Services of QDC, the Director of Public Works of QDC, the North Kingstown Planning Director, the North Kingstown Public Works Director, and the North Kingstown Fire Chief and/or the Rhode Island State Fire Marshall.

While the TRC has reviewed and approved the proposal for an office building and Quonset hut storage building (phase I of the project), the plans and specification for phase II inclusive of the pyrolysis equipment have not yet been finalized by the developer and submitted for review. Based upon the TRC meetings that have been held for this project we believe the Town’s representatives have been aware of the inclusion of the pyrolysis process for some time.

As the Town’s letter notes, Quonset values our long-standing and productive partnership with North Kingstown and the positive and successful relationship we have enjoyed. This

relationship has created benefits for North Kingstown that are unique among Rhode Island's cities and towns, including:

- Nearly \$15 million annually in property taxes and PILOT from Quonset companies to the Town. (There are no residents at Quonset, and no children in the schools.)
- Access to the Quonset sewer system, servicing the Post Road District and numerous residential developments, saving the town millions of dollars that would be required to build a stand-alone municipal facility.
- Quonset hosts a town fire station and provided the town with the site for its DPW garage.
 - It's worth noting that as part of a different project, a company related to QSS will be building a new fire station, at the company's expense.
- Administrative offices for town schools are in Quonset's Gateway Office complex.
- The town transfer station is on property provided by Quonset.
- The Quonset water system provides the town with a backup supply in emergencies.
- Quonset contains approximately 700 acres of open space and recreation area.
- Quonset provides four public beaches with free parking, all maintained by QDC.
- Quonset includes two connected bike paths: the 2.3-mile-long Quonset bike path (QDC maintained) and the 1.25-mile-long North Kingstown bike path extension (NK maintained).
- QDC provides four public multi-use athletic fields on 22 acres to the town for use by North Kingstown's youth leagues.
- QDC provides the site for The Seabee Museum and Memorial Park which features Quonset's history as a formal naval base and home of the Fighting Seabees.
- Quonset has planted hundreds of trees and shrubs on top of a 10-foot earthen berm along Newcomb Road to create additional buffering and green space.

The need for this project is much larger than Quonset or North Kingstown. The proposal must also be viewed in the broader context of a near-term crisis for Rhode Island in managing biosolids generated by wastewater treatment facilities. The looming closure of the Woonsocket incinerator makes this crisis even more acute. The stakes are high for every Rhode Islander and municipalities across the state, and solutions are urgently needed.

Importantly, the proposed facility at Quonset differs from the operations in Woonsocket, and Cranston, in that it will not involve incineration. It would use a different process and would handle material that has already been treated offsite, addressing concerns associated with traditional disposal methods.

The project has also undergone review by relevant regulatory agencies, including the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA has determined that the proposed process is not incineration.

Recognizing the importance of further study and public input, Quonset wholeheartedly supports the legislative study commission which is being formed to consider this issue in its entirety. QDC has placed a pause on this project while it awaits the commission's findings, slated for January 2027. We are committed to participating in the commission process in a thoughtful and constructive manner, ensuring that all perspectives are considered.

Quonset remains committed to working collaboratively with the Town of North Kingstown, state leaders, and the public to address the entirety of this issue responsibly and transparently. We are available to you at any time to answer questions or provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Steven J. King
Managing Director

Cc: Speaker Joseph Shekarchi
Senate President Valerie Lawson
Secretary of Commerce Stefan Pryor
North Kingstown Town Council
Senator Bridgette Valverde
Senator Alana DiMario
Representative Robert Craven
Representative Julie Casimiro
Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns
Town Manager Ralph Mollis
Mr. Vincent Mesoletta, Chairman Narragansett Bay Commission