

North Kingstown Town Council Resolution

Whereas, according to R.I. Gen. Law 42-64.10-3, the Quonset Development Corporation (QDC) was established in part to “establish, implement, and maintain high standards of design, improvement, operation, and use of property under its control in order to provide sites and related amenities for high quality businesses that create high value added jobs in Rhode Island”; and

Whereas, QDC was also established to “foster and maintain effective working relations with its host and surrounding communities;” and

Whereas, the Town of North Kingstown is the host community for QDC; and

Whereas, over the past many years QDC has provided approximately ten million dollars in annual tax revenue to the town that the town has utilized to fund municipal government services;

Whereas, over the past many years representatives of both QDC and the Town of North Kingstown have had an open dialogue regarding the concerns of the North Kingstown community; and

Whereas, the Town of North Kingstown and QDC have worked together to move QDC forward consistent with their common goals; and

Whereas, on November 19, 2024, the QDC Board of Directors approved a Ground Lease for QSS Biosolids, LLC (aka: Global Soil Solutions, LLC) by a vote of 5-3; and

Whereas, the only public information related to the ground lease in the motion approved on November 19, 2024 by the QDC Board of Directors was related to the property leased to QSS Biosolids, LLC, and there was no mention of the type of business that QSS Biosolids, LLC proposed to conduct; and

Whereas, QDC Board Members Larry Mandel and Matthew McCoy, representing the Town of North Kingstown, cast their votes in opposition to the QSS Biosolids, LLC, ground lease; and

Whereas, QSS Biosolids, LLC proposes to develop a sewage sludge facility within the QDC on the ground lease area; and

Whereas, the proposed site of the ground lease for QSS Biosolids, LLC and its proposed sewage sludge facility abuts neighborhoods with families in the Davisville area of North Kingstown; and

Whereas, the negative vote of the representatives of the host community demonstrates that the operation proposed by QSS Biosolids, LLC does not “foster” an effective working relationship with host community North Kingstown; and

Whereas, QDC BOD meetings are not livestreamed nor are video recordings made available to members of the public for future viewing; and

Whereas, the details of the type of business QSS Biosolids, LLC proposes to operate was not subject to an open and public process; and

Whereas, QSS Biosolids, LLC, recently applied for an Air Pollution Control Permit with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM); and

Whereas, DEM granted QSS Biosolids, LLC the Air Pollution Control Permit without either notifying the Town of North Kingstown or holding a public hearing because DEM determined that the QSS Biosolids, LLC application was considered a “minor source” permit; and

Whereas, in two separate instances, agencies of the State of Rhode Island made consequential and impactful decisions on importing sewage sludge to the Town of North Kingstown with inadequate opportunity for the public to comment and an apparent lack of transparency; and

Whereas, the specific operations proposed by QSS Biosolids, LLC in West Davisville, including but not limited to treatment of sewage sludge, have not been presented to the QDC Technical Review Committee. Furthermore, the QDC Technical Review Committee members have never been informed as to the type of business proposed by QSS Biosolids, LLC; and

Whereas, the operation proposed by QSS Biosolids, LLC, has never been presented to any department of the Town of North Kingstown, the North Kingstown Town Council, or any of its boards or commissions; and

Whereas, if QDC and/or the State of Rhode Island believes that this proposed business will not adversely affect the North Kingstown community, it should be demonstrated in public through a public hearing process with public input; and

Now therefore, due to the lack of a transparent public process and potential harmful effects, the North Kingstown Town Council hereby respectfully requests that QDC rescind its existing ground lease with QSS Biosolids, LLC until such time that it holds public hearings that informs the public about how this proposed pyrolysis facility will affect the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of the Town of North Kingstown.