Dear David Cameron,

**Incineration and Oxfordshire's waste**

As the Member of Parliament for Witney I'm sure you will share our concern about the environment in Oxfordshire. Household waste and recycling is collected from your constituents by West Oxfordshire District Council. Disposal of the waste is the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council. These Councils, along with the other districts councils in Oxfordshire are part of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership, which recently agreed to the Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Strategy. The Strategy aims to increase recycling, and to stabilize levels of household waste from 2012. However, it does not specify how the part of our household waste which is not recycled will be treated and disposed of. This decision is being left to Oxfordshire County Council.

Your concern at climate change and its consequences, including supporting a parliamentary bill for year-on-year reductions of greenhouse gases, are welcome. We are eager that the County Council, which is under the control of the Conservative group, will choose a form of waste treatment that produces minimum pollution. There is a possibility that Council will choose to burn the county's household waste in some form of incinerator. This waste treatment has been shown to be particularly polluting, especially in terms of climate change. This is documented in Friends of the Earth's report 'Dirty Truths: incineration and climate change' (copy enclosed).

We have been calling on Oxfordshire County Council to reject incineration and to choose other waste treatments like Mechanical Biological Treatment (using anaerobic digestion), which produces less greenhouse gases and does not involve burning waste. The contracts for Oxfordshire's new waste treatment are expected to last up to thirty years. It is estimated that even over twenty years the County could burn over 3 million tonnes of discarded resources – which we call rubbish – in an incinerator. Clearly the decision made by politicians within the County, and in particular your own political party will last for many years to come.

We hope you will support our opposition to burning Oxfordshire's waste in an incinerator. To this end we are asking if you would write to Oxfordshire County Council opposing incineration of our rubbish. We look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely

(Friends of the Earth local groups in Oxfordshire)
Andrew Wood, Oxford Friends of the Earth
Jo Allen, Bicester Friends of the Earth
Collette Humphreys, Banbury Friends of the Earth
Maureen Dyroff, Chinor and Thame Friends of the Earth