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January 2011

Dear [REDACTED]

I have just published new legislation, which will introduce, as promised, levies on incineration for the first time. This Bill will be introduced into the Dáil in the coming weeks.

I am aware of claims in the media that the American private company contracted to build and operate the 600 tonne mass-burn incinerator at Poolbeg will pull out of the project when the levies are introduced. These claims will not affect my determination to introduce incineration levies, which are urgently required to incentivise more favourable ways of dealing with waste.

I have always been opposed to this incinerator as it will undermine the development of a more sustainable waste policy for Ireland. This new waste policy will be published shortly, as well as the Hennessy Report, an independent analysis which I commissioned on the contract for the Poolbeg incinerator.

It is clear that the proposed incinerator cannot go ahead. The new international waste review highlights more sustainable way of dealing with our waste. And this is the policy which our Local Authorities will now have to pursue.

I will continue to keep you posted on this matter.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

John Gormley TD
Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

- *As I have only sent one copy of this letter to each household, I would appreciate it if you could pass it on to anyone who may be interested.*