

In response to the Times-News editorial asking that there not be a rush to judgment on Aggresti, McCormick and Rubino's plans to build the nation's largest tire incinerator here in Erie, let's review the facts. Their ERE, LLC (limited liability corporation) is a new company with no experience in this industry. Their spokespeople at the public meeting at East High School in March wouldn't discuss the technical or environmental concerns regarding the tire incinerator plant and they still won't publicly state the specific technologies they have planned, having named a couple of different types of possible incinerator technologies so far.

Keep Erie's Environment Protected (KEEP), a local grassroots organization of concerned Erie residents and supporting local environmental groups, has looked at the pollution hazards associated with tire incinerators and with the possible technologies ERE, LLC has mentioned. Regardless of which type of burner they use, the plant will add significant amounts of new air pollution to the Erie region. Based on similar facilities, we know what sorts of pollutants will come out and what they do to human health. Asthma, heart attacks, cancer, learning disabilities, premature births and many other health problems are associated with these pollutants. This is unavoidable with ANY type of incinerator. The only question is that no one knows the exact amounts of these pollutants that will be released into the air. ERE doesn't know either, since no dedicated tire incinerator has used the types of burners they propose and since only a few of the many pollutants will be monitored on a continuous basis. Erie's air quality is already above levels considered healthy by the EPA. It makes no sense to further pollute our air when clean recycling technologies exist for scrap tires.

Finally, \$94 million is really a bad way to produce only 60 jobs (\$1.5 million per job?!?). Erie residents don't need another corporate tax-break giveaway either. As State Representative Pat Harkins is on record as saying, we need to produce a better and sustainable "clean and green" use for the old IP site.