



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.

H.R. 5974: the Department of Veterans Affairs Creation of On-Site Treatment Systems Affording Veterans Improvements and Numerous General Safety Enhancements (VA COST SAVINGS) Act

Background:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) both consider on-site waste management to be a medical best practice as well as a cost-effective alternate to off-site waste management. However, only approximately 20% of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities have installed on-site sterilization equipment.

H.R. 5974 would: (1) require VA to identify VA facilities that would benefit from cost savings associated with the use of an on-site regulated medical waste treatment system over a five year period; (2) require VA to develop a uniform, regulated medical waste cost analysis model to be used to determine the cost savings associated with the use of an on-site regulated medical waste treatment system; (3) ensure that, at each VA facility identified as a facility that would benefit from an on-site regulated medical waste treatment system, these systems are purchased pursuant to the purchase agreement known as the "VHA Regulated Medical Waste On-Site Treatment Equipment Systems Blanket Purchase Agreement."

The Message:

- According to the CDC and WHO, on-site waste management is considered a medical best practice.
- When practical, on-site regulated medical waste treatment systems can save taxpayer dollars.
- This legislation will require VA to identify facilities that would benefit from on-site regulated medical waste treatment systems and purchase those systems pursuant to an existing purchase agreement.