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Zion mayor, NSSD president rebut project critic

■ Landfill or sludge plant? Environmentalists' expertise under fire

By Ed Collins
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SUN

The mayor of Zion and the president of the North Shore Sanitary District rebutted

criticism by an environmental activist who last week accused the district of arrogance and wasteful spending regarding plans to build a sludge processing plant in Zion.

Susan Zingle, executive director of the Lake County Conservation Alliance, said Friday that the proposed sludge dryer-melter — strongly opposed by the city of Waukegan — is nothing more than a high-priced incinerator that will spew mercury and other pollutants.

She also said such a plant would be an unattractive neighbor to Zion's proposed Trumpet Technology Park.

"Why she (Zingle) considers herself an expert on sludge disposal is beyond me," said NSSD Board President John Paxton.

"How can Zingle claim that NSSD is being arrogant even though we sat down with Zion city officials, considered their needs and made them our partner? I suppose we could

lay Susan Zingle a golden egg and she would want silver," he said.

Zion Mayor Lane Harrison also criticized Zingle for suggesting that the sanitary district should continue its 40-year practice of landfilling the daily 176 tons of sludge generated by its three sewage treatment plants.

❖ Turn to **NSSD, A2**