

Elizabeth S. Palter 64A Nipmuc Trail North Providence, RI 02904

June 23, 2016

Governor Gina Raimondo

82 Smith Street

State House

Providence, RI 02903

Re: Proposed Burrillville Power Plant

Dear Governor Raimondo:

I understand your search for projects to strengthen the state's economy. As a longtime citizen of the state, I request that you initiate a new direction and drop the proposed Burrillville Power Plant project.

I attended the second of the public hearings on the proposed Burrillville power plant, and walked away more convinced that this proposition is a very bad idea for that town, its citizens, our state, and, indeed, the planet.

I appeal to you to become better informed about all of the consequences of building a natural gas power plant in Burrillville, especially, but also anywhere else in our lovely state.

Here are the reasons this plant should not be built:

- The site is located within the area of the *Blackstone National Heritage Corridor* in the watershed of the Blackstone River. Named an American Heritage River in 1998, the Blackstone River is the focal point and main artery of the region, distinguished by outstanding resources: natural, cultural, and historical. It is worth remembering that among the stated goals of the Blackstone NHC Commission's ten year plan were developing "strategies for protection, restoration, management, or acquisition" of heritage corridor properties and providing a framework for local and regional decision-making.
- This would be the *second plant to befall the people of Burrillville and surrounding communities.*
- The plant would disturb the fragile eco-system of the partly forested northwest corner of our state. You would *cause the air to be polluted with fumes from the plant and would contribute to an increased level of noise pollution from the plant, disturbing area residents and wildlife.*

- Such a proposed plant is calling upon *fracked gas* to be processed. Fracking remains a controversial and not fully researched technology. There remain grave concerns about the dangers of the process, its short and long term effects on the environment, and its economic value. As a citizen, I will demand that full and unbiased environmental impact studies are conducted and will work to insure that all Rhode Island residents are informed about the implications of the proposals you develop.
- *Water has become a precious resource and highly valued commodity* in the 21st century. From what I have read about the plans, this plant will destroy the waters of aquifers and a river despite the much touted plans for water treatment. Contaminating fresh water is a fool's bargain, and the risks outweigh the benefits in this proposal.
- *The State Planning Process, using a participatory approach, has been established to protect our water, land, resources, and ecology.* I have attended meetings of the Land and Water Conferences for years and appreciate the presentations made by its staff. This seems to me to be a planning process that is both practical and aspirational. I do hope that you, as Governor and the Energy Facilities Siting Board, find this planning process of significant value to your administration and the state and respect it.
- As a further observation, the proposed plant will not provide much more than 5% of energy to our state. *Let's put our workers to better and more productive labor.*
- There appears to be *no feasible decommissioning plan.*

In conclusion, I point out to you that the United Nations recently produced the Paris Agreement to limit CO2 emissions and set targets for the next five years. Several years ago we reached the tipping point of 350 ppm, and we are now well beyond 400 ppm. Most of the world's nations participated in this major effort, conducted by Christine Figueres and her team. The United States signed this Agreement on Earth Day, as did many other nations. Our most informed leaders will want to take steps to avoid deleterious consequences to our environment from excessive fossil fuel emissions. (**See 350.org**)

Please explore approaches that will best meet the needs of a 21st century paradigm that addresses the matter of climate warming. We will need solutions for the economy and our resources that include non-nuclear, renewable energy and reduced energy demand/conservation. Thank you for your consideration of my views and the views of many others.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth S. Palter, Ph.D.

c: RI Energy Siting Board; RI Senator O'Neill; RI Representative Corvese

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