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Members of the Committee, my name is Paul Fogarty and I am here in strong opposition to siting this power plant in Burrillville.

In case you haven't guessed by the size of this crowd tonight and the large crowd at the last meeting, the sentiment in this community is strongly against this proposal. In fact in all my time as state Senator from Burrillville I can honestly say I have never seen the citizens come out so strongly and so passionately against something as they have on this proposed power plant.

By the way, this is not a case of NIMBYism. Far from it! This small community already hosts a large gas fired power plant and a high pressure gas transmission facility. We've done more than ~~done~~ our part for the energy needs of RI. It's time for other parts of the state, besides Northwest RI, to step up and pitch in.

This attempt to put a 2nd large power plant in town reminds me of that old TV ad for Life cereal. "Give it to Mikey...he'll have anything." Well hopefully the message to you from Burrillville has been very clear ... Mikey doesn't want this 2nd power plant!

Over the course of the last few months my colleague, Rep. Cale Keable and I have looked closely at the proposal, investigated the facts, held our own town hall meeting ~~a few weeks ago~~, attended the last public hearing and had our staff do considerable research on this subject. We have talked ~~to dozens~~ ^{Daily to} of constituents and listened to their concerns. We've had numerous phone calls, emails and letters in opposition to it.

And after carefully evaluating all the facts and listening to our constituents we came to the clear conclusion that this proposal doesn't make sense for environmental, safety, economic and quality of life reasons.

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Last month we officially went on record in opposition and formally submitted our letter to you detailing the reasons we are opposed to this project. So I won't take up more time tonight restating those reasons that are now already a part the official record.

But I do want to close by emphasizing 2 points:

1st: This decision is not just a matter of cold facts about megawatts of power generated and megawatts of power used in RI. This has to do with the health, quality of life and character of a small community which would be significantly changed...and not for the better! Director Coit, as leader of our state's environmental protection agency you above all people know that.

2nd: I am concerned about the process itself which puts the future of this community in the hands of 3 people who don't have a stake here. One person is from Barrington, another is from Providence . And the 3rd person has literally just parachuted in from Bridgeport Connecticut!

Shaping the future of Burrillville should belong to the residents of this town and no one else!

Members of the Committee, the facts clearly argue against this project. There are too many questions, too many potential risks... and the residents, those most affected, are clearly opposed.

As my host my parents had a saying
Growing up, ~~my parents had a saying in our house they would say~~ to me, my brother and sisters: "If everybody does a little no one has to do a lot".

Please... understand this, respect this and act accordingly. Turn this proposal down and find a more suitable location in Rhode Island.

There out there

Thank you