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To: The RI Energy Facility Siting Board

March 31, 2016

I support Rhode Island's efforts to encourage economic development and job growth. However, I strongly oppose the construction of the Clear River Energy Center. The long-term environmental impact of this project far outweighs the short-term economic benefits outlined by Invenergy in their application.

The Invenergy proposal promises to bring jobs to our area. However, most of the direct jobs will be in the early construction phase – the staff required for plant operation is much smaller. Our economic development should focus on sustainable jobs that can grow the region's economic base. The tax benefits to Burrillville are calculated on a per-household basis at less than \$350 per year, even if the plant provides tax relief at the high end of their estimate. The loss in property values for residents overshadows this potential tax benefit. The projected reduction in energy costs to Rhode Island residents is short term and minimal. Finally, the results of the February ISO energy auction demonstrate that this power plant is not essential for the future energy needs of New England.

In contrast, the negative repercussions of building the largest power plant in New England in our backyard are extensive. Disruption to the towns along routes 44 and 100 will be significant during the 30-month construction phase. Hundreds of very large tractor trailers per month will impact traffic and degrade infrastructure that is already in need of repair. The forest and wetlands destroyed by the project house wildlife and help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Several recreational facilities in the area benefit from the rural character of the northwest part of the state. Burrillville will be forever changed by a project that continues to rely on fossil fuels in a time when it is clear that alternative energy is the key to a sustainable energy future.

Once the plant is operational, threats to the environment will escalate. Heavy tankers will continue to use local roads as the diesel oil storage tanks require refilling. The large amounts of water removed from the local aquifer each day will not percolate easily into the groundwater system because of the gneissic bedrock of our area. Local wells may be adversely affected by the cone of depression around the Pascoag town well. The filtering of MTBE-tainted water from the well will require large amounts of activated charcoal that must be replaced at regular intervals, generating toxic waste. The carbon emissions from the plant when it burns diesel oil (up to 60 days per year) will exceed the emissions of some of the coal plants being brought off line. The noise and light pollution will be significant. There will always be the possibility of an accident – a leaking oil tank, a problem involving the hydrogen tube trailer, a catastrophic failure of the cooling system – events that despite all contingency plans would be disastrous for the community. And once the facility is decommissioned it will remain a large blight on the Northern Rhode Island landscape.

Rhode Island needs to be a leader in the creation of sustainable energy programs that can help grow our economy and give us an economic advantage in the coming years. We shouldn't be investing in fossil fuel energy plants that will continue to contribute to climate change in the world our children and grandchildren will inherit.

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