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To begin, I'm amazed by the fact that the decision to approve or disapprove this power plant lies not with the citizens of Rhode Island, but only with a 3 person committee. What happened to democracy? But given that, I can only appeal to you to thoroughly evaluate this project and take into account the devastating environmental impact this power plant would have. I also ask that you consider other greener options or the option of no action if the demand for power does not justify the construction of another power plant.

Fracked gas is not the same as conventionally sourced gas. Fracked gas can contain any number of toxic and radioactive components. The presence of these contaminants in our natural gas systems is still new and extensive epidemiological studies have not yet been conducted although the human health effects of the contaminants themselves are well documented and provide cause for serious concern. Fracked gas has been shown to have alarmingly high levels of ozone, which can travel hundreds of miles with air currents potentially affecting all of New England. Fracked gas contains numerous carcinogens, endocrine disruptors and other toxins including radon. Radon has a half-life of 22 years and there have been no studies done to evaluate how much is released by burning of this gas to produce electricity.

Natural gas is not a clean fuel. To the contrary, the weight of evidence increasingly suggests that it is worse than coal from a greenhouse effect perspective. Although lower in CO2 production than burning oil or coal, natural gas produces very high levels of methane which is a powerful greenhouse gas itself. Not to mention the environmental impact of fracking itself – although not being done here, we would be promoting the use of this horrible practice. And the risk of explosions of the pipe lines which have been numerous and the cause of large fires

and human casualties. Increasing Rhode Island's dependence on natural gas would therefore have serious global environmental impact.

Given increasing cancer rates, effects from global warming and increasing problems with water contamination and air pollution, shouldn't we be making wise choices in our production of energy. What we decide to do today will effect generations to come. As a country we should be leading the way with clean energy, not promoting the use of fossil fuels just because it is the easier and cheaper way to go. Consider investing in some of our locally based businesses such as New England Clean Energy in Hudson, or Alternative Clean Energy in Smithfield.

I was told by one of the town council members that there was no way that this power plant was not going to get approved because of the cost of alternative energies, the low price of fracked gas and the strong backing from the labor unions. I ask that you look at this project from all angles and please consider the environmental impact and the long term consequences of it. Don't sell out to the political pressures. Cheaper electricity in the short term is not worth trading away a safe world for future generations.

Dr. Gryniewicz
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