

## Bianco, Todd (PUC)

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**From:** Kogut, Thomas (DPUC)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016 11:41 AM  
**To:** Bianco, Todd (PUC)  
**Subject:** FW: This letter is regarding the proposed power plant in Burrillville RI

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**From:** Paul Ernest [mailto:paulwernest@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016 11:38 AM  
**To:** Kogut, Thomas (DPUC) <Thomas.Kogut@dpuc.ri.gov>  
**Subject:** This letter is regarding the proposed power plant in Burrillville RI

Twenty five years ago, people could be excused for not knowing much or doing much about climate change. Today we have no excuse. We often talk about the consequences of climate change as something that will take place decades from now. Climate change is not a problem for the distant future. We're already seeing its effects today. In reality, people are already losing their homes and entire communities are being forced to relocate due to rising sea levels and increased flooding, all across America. We don't have time to wait. We must act boldly to transform our energy system today. Carbon dioxide levels in Antarctica are the highest they've been in 4 million years. If we continue burning fossil fuels, we will experience cataclysmic change; in terms of more disease, more hunger, more drought, more famine, rising sea levels, more floods, more ocean acidification, more extreme weather disturbances and more human suffering. What that means is that we must leave the majority of global reserves of coal, natural gas, and oil in the ground. Climate change is real. It is caused by human activity and it is already causing devastating problems in the U.S. and around the world. At a time when virtually the entire scientific community- the people who spend their lives studying climate change- tells us that global warming is real, that it is significantly caused by human activity and that it is already doing great damage, it is beyond comprehension that we would still continue in this way.

If we are serious about combating climate change, we need to put an end to fracking all over this country. We cannot afford to be deceived by the fossil fuel industry anymore. They try to tell us that there is an "Energy Crisis". But the real energy crisis is that we are burning too much fossil fuels. In 1 year, fracking caused as much climate pollution as 22 coal fired power plants. Right now, we have an energy policy that is rigged to boost profits of companies like Spectra at the expense of average Americans. CEO's are raking in record profits while climate change ravages our planet and our people - all because the wealthiest industry in the history of our planet has bribed politicians into complacency in the face of climate change. Enough is enough. If this plant is truly needed then it should not be allowed to be profitable. No one should be profiting off anything that would pollute our atmosphere or add to climate change. It's time to take on the fossil fuel industry, accelerate our transition to clean energy and finally put people before the profits of polluters. There are new laws seeking to prosecute fossil fuel companies for deliberately misleading the public over climate change. We must have the guts to stand up to the fossil fuel industry and tell them that their short-term profits are not more important than the planet.

We should not be building this on a chance that homes could go dark. We need to be absolutely certain before taking this leap backwards. Hilary Clinton said that In ten years we can generate enough renewable energy to power every home in America. I see solar panels popping up all over town. On farms, factories, businesses, and houses. The people seem to be heading in the right direction. But what does it say when our elected officials are complacent with steering us backwards? When we improve energy efficiency, we also create a significant number of meaningful jobs and lead the world toward sustainability. They tell us that this power plant would save the tax payers some money. Well, hurricane damage costs are expected to increase by 39% in the coming decades due to the effects of climate change. When it comes to addressing climate change, the most expensive option is to do nothing at all. We have a financial and moral

obligation to combat climate change. We must aggressively transition away from fossil fuels to energy efficiency and sustainable energy. Understanding the magnitude of the climate crises also means realizing that good environmental policy is also good economic policy.

For the sake of our children, we should not intentionally do more harm of this magnitude. We need to end our dependence on fossil fuels, not expand on it. We want our children to live in a world without the destructive power of a warming planet. Approving a project like this means you are either denying climate change or ignorant to its effects. Elected officials need to worry less about their campaign contributions and more about their children. I fear very much that our children and our grandchildren- who will reap the pain from our neglect- will never forgive us for not moving in the way we should be moving.

Thank You,  
Paul Ernest