

January 27, 2016

Mr. Todd Bianco, Coordinator  
Rhode Island Energy Facilities Siting Board  
Public Utilities Commission  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02917  
Re: Invenergy Clear River Energy Center, SB-2015-06

Dear Mr. Bianco,

I am writing as a member of the public in support of the Burrillville Lands Trust motion to intervene in hearings on the siting of the Invenergy Clear River Energy Center in Burrillville, Rhode Island. I attended the January 12, 2016 Energy Facility Siting Board Hearing for this project out of general interest, as I teach an Energy Management class at Bryant University. I thought the issues raised by construction of this facility would be interesting topics for discussion in my class. I was struck by the presentation made by the Lands Trust attorney. This group appears to be the only public advocate for a wider range of environmental concerns than just those related to renewable vs fossil fuel generation. The Conservation Law Foundation appeared to be limiting its brief to impacts on renewable energy growth in Rhode Island, and private citizens impacted by the construction were mostly interested in property values, noise and traffic.

In their motion to dismiss, the Burrillville Lands Trust expressed concerns about the impacts of large scale forest removal and fragmentation accompanying construction of the facility and access roads. They noted potential impacts to species habitat and biodiversity, increasing impervious surfaces, and loss of wetlands and forest services (including uptake of CO<sub>2</sub>). These concerns affect not only abutting Lands Trust properties, but have been issues of concern to RI DEM and RI Planning Department for many years in promoting protection of undeveloped rural land. I understand that RIDEM will be reviewing many of these issues as they pertain to siting of the power plant, however they have limited in-house expertise in some areas, such as impacts to biodiversity. An informed voice for the public on these issues can only add to the discussion.

As to my qualifications to weigh in on this motion, I have been teaching energy and environmental science courses in the Department of Science and Technology at Bryant for the last 9 years. I am also a long term Foster Planning Board member, so have an appreciation of the importance of our undeveloped forest land and wetlands and the ecosystem services that they provide.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

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