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TO: Energy Facility Siting Board of the RI Public Utilities Commission

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It is disheartening that a state trying to establish itself as a leader in clean energy with its first in the nation, ocean-based wind farm would fall back into the fracked-gas rabbit hole of carbon based power by allowing the largest such plant in all New England to be build within its borders. That sounds like a state that doesn't have a coherent energy policy. It is ludicrous that a small state with no wilderness, shrinking contiguous forest, well on its way to becoming the nation's first all-urban state would hasten that process by destroying even one acre of the undisturbed land it has left never mind over 100 acres. These acres sequester at least 6,000 tons of carbon according to US Forest Services estimates.\* No camper would want to pitch his tent any where near such a monstrosity with all the wildlife and interesting plants they might discover driven out. The birds and animals displaced by this plant won't just take up residence in the next acre. Animals don't build high-rises and jam thousands of themselves into ever-shrinking green spaces like humans do. They go far away. They don't reproduce. They die along with the carbon sequestering trees and shrubs and soil and water.

There is no greater good being produced here that will make up for the destruction of thousands of healthy trees. The state is already under threat of losing all our ashes to the emerald ash borer, all the hemlocks to woolly adelgid, our red and sugar maples to warming environmental changes that drive them further north, white pines to pine blister rust and who knows how many hardwoods to the Asian long-horned beetle should it ride in to town. The beautiful stand of healthy hemlock on nearby Land Trust property is put at risk of becoming more quickly infected by the woolly adelgid after this huge opening and ROW path in the forest are created. Are there any plans to 'seal' the forest edges to prevent invasives from taking hold?

It is discouraging that a town that has always prided itself in remaining unpolluted by the likes of McDonalds and Taco Bell would welcome this Burger KING of a power plant that is likely to rip up more acres of land, tear up more roads, weaken more bridges than 50 fast food joints would.

The benefits of the project are all short term. Invenergy states that the predicted benefit to electricity rates will only last for a couple years after the plant goes on line. The need for construction jobs, should any of Burrillville's construction and trucking companies be hired for such a technically complex project, will not be steady, but rise and fall over the months of building. Is there a pool of residents in Burrillville who hold the qualifications for those longer-term, high paying jobs?

I doubt these foreign investment companies are interested in the long-term health and welfare of RI after they take away the woods and natural resources in Burrillville. I doubt the companies harbor any Austin T. Levys who still blesses the town through a foundation. I am willing to bet that any taxes or P.I.L.O.T.s the town gets will not result in lower real estate taxes but end up only being used to clean up messes we wouldn't have if the plant hadn't been built.

Replacing inefficient power plants is a noble goal. But cleaning and converting the dirty ones going off line like the one in Somerset, Mass rather than building new ones on pristine forest-land is even more noble. If you take your dog into a public space, are you not expected to clean up after it? Of COURSE it would initially cost more to reuse and recycle these sites, but isn't it time we expect companies to engineer everything we build to leave the world in better not worse shape at the end of the day?

I believe this project will ultimately only create another brownfield in town for our grandchildren to deal with. No one appears to have the vision to consider what the town will be left with when this plant is useless in relatively few years. Can we then convert it to a Bass Pro Shop, perhaps, that sells equipment to enjoy what used to be there? It's not NIMBY, it's NIMG – Not In My Generation. How selfish can we be.

As I see it, Burrillville is quickly on its way to becoming no longer rural but just another suburb of a Big City like so many others, with only a token of countryness because it is deemed too expensive to be rural.

\*The U.S. Forest Service's averages for carbon stored by trees is 58.8 tons per acre. <http://www.americanforests.org/assumptions-and-sources/>