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It is disheartening that a state trying to establish itself as a leader in clean energy with the 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 of New England to be build within its borders. That sounds like a state that doesn't have a coherent or creative energy policy. It is ludicrous that a small state with no wilderness and 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. This plant will depress tourism in the Washington Management area. No camper would want to pitch his tent any where near such a constantly humming monstrosity after 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 driving 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.

Are there any plans to 'seal' the forest edges to prevent invasives from taking hold? Any canopy disturbance will cause dormant invasives to come to life. Where there were no forest edges, there are now 4. All that new light

and wind access created by openings in the forest allow more chances for invasive seeds and insects to fly in. Specifically the beautiful stand of healthy hemlock on nearby Land Trust property is put at risk by the hole in the forest and new ROW that will be cleared.

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. 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. The construction jobs for such a technically complex project will likely go to out of state firms. Local hires will surely be intermittent and short term. Likewise applicants possessing the qualifications for the long-term, high paying jobs of power plant operators are, sadly, likely not to be found in Burrillville. Invenergy states that the predicted benefit to electricity rates will only last for a couple years after the plant goes on line. 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 will end up 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 those dirty ones like the one going off line in Somerset, Mass rather than building new ones on pristine forestland 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 may cost more to reuse or recycle these sites, but isn't it

time we expect companies to engineer all we build in such a way as 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?

Please remember the interconnectedness of all life on earth, from the microbe living in rich forest soil on up to arrogant man who thinks his actions never have a bearing on the survival of any species including his own.

As I see it, this plant will only hasten Burrillville to lose its rural character and become just another suburb of the Big City like so many others, leaving only a token of countryness because it is deemed too expensive to remain rural.