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James A. Himes Congress of the United States

4th District, Connecticut

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Dear Friends,

I regret that I could not be present here tonight. However, I was pleased to have an opportunity yesterday to spend an hour at the site of FuelCell Energy's proposed power plant and to hear from the neighbors who will be directly impacted by the LLC's petition. I would like to thank Trumbull First Selectman Tim Herbst, Edna Colucci, Keith Klain, as well as Town Councilwoman Mary Beth Thornton, State Representative T.R. Rowe, State Representative Tony Hwang, State Senator Anthony Musto and the assembly of concerned residents who have rallied to shed light on and prevent the construction of a fuel cell generator on Huntington Turnpike.

My constituents are concerned about the negative implications of this power plant not only on their property values, but on their quality of life and safety, and on the particularly historic and serene Nichols section of Trumbull. I am also aware that the Town of Trumbull, as well as members of the Town Council and our General Assembly have all expressed their adamant resistance to this proposal. And frankly, based on what I have learned from Trumbull's concerned citizens and elected officials, I am also troubled by what seems to be the inappropriate siting of an industrial energy system in a densely populated residential neighborhood.

I am a supporter of clean energy generation, but not in residential neighborhoods; and not within one mile of schools and parks at which Trumbull's children learn and play. Taking into account the recent Kleen Energy power plant explosion in Middletown, it is of the utmost importance that this natural gas-based fuel cell technology is deliberately tested and proven harmless, with safeguards implemented against the adverse affects to the health of the surrounding community.

Based on my understanding of fuel cell technology, the most important aspects of the argument against the proposed power plant are the unknowns associated with the potentially harmful effects on the environment and on the safety of the families residing in the Nichols community. I look forward to learning more about fuel cell technology and further working with our local elected officials and concerned citizens of Trumbull to find a healthy solution to FuelCell Energy's petition.

Sincerely,

James A. Himes

Member of Congress