



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR DAN DEBICELLA

DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER
TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT

1 LAZYBROOK ROAD
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT 06484

HARTFORD: (860) 240-8800
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1421
HOME: (203) 225-0558
FAX: (860) 240-8306

E-MAIL: Dan.Debicella@cga.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MEMBER

REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

April 23, 2010

R. Daniel Brdar
Chairman, President and CEO
FuelCell Energy
3 Great Pasture Road
Danbury, CT 06813

Dear Mr. Brdar:

I write in strong opposition to the proposed 3.4-megawatt Power Plant facility, which your company intends to build on Huntington Turnpike in the Nichols section of the town of Trumbull. I have always been a strong supporter of renewable energy and I believe that sustainable, environmentally-friendly alternatives must be developed as part of our state's long-term solution to increase power supply. However, I have serious concerns about the location of this project.

I believe there are considerable flaws, not only in the proposal itself, but also in the application process. The legislature is taking steps to address the latter by considering legislation to give the Siting Council more authority to reject a fuel cell plant for health and safety reasons. Based on the intended placement of this plant in the middle of a residential neighborhood, I urge you to consider the perspectives of the residents in the community.

At a public hearing before the state legislature's Energy and Technology Committee this session, over 70 Trumbull residents travelled to the Capitol to express their strong opposition to your company's proposal, and to express their support for the legislature's efforts to allow for more extensive scrutiny of fuel cell facilities. They spoke first and foremost about the issue of safety.

I believe these residents are correct in their assertion that there is too much risk in moving forward with the project in the proposed location. We have all witnessed the tragedy that occurred at the Middletown Kleen Energy Plant, and since the hazardous implications of such an energy generating source are still largely undetermined, we are progressively more aware of the threat to public safety in the community.

Other concerns raised were aesthetics, neighborhood character, proximity to schools, homes and parks, and historical district designation. Just as a large manufacturing plant or busy office complex would be detrimental to proximate housing values, so will a Power Plant such as you have proposed. Like so many neighborhoods, many residents have made a large investment in their homes and that value must be protected.

Based on these valid concerns, I implore you to collaborate with the State Department of Economic and Community Development to identify an alternative location for this facility. I would be happy to discuss this matter with you in further detail, and I thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Dan Debicella
State Senator, 21st District

CC: Governor M. Jodi Rell

First Selectman Tim Herbst

Trumbull Town Council

Chairman Kevin M. DelGobbo, Department of Public Utility Control

Chairman Daniel F. Caruso, Siting Council

Commissioner Joan McDonald, Department of Economic and Community Development