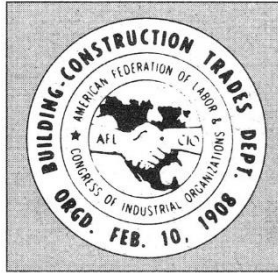


RHODE ISLAND



BUILDING TRADES

August 11, 2017

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Hon. Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor
City of Providence
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Proposed Power Plant in Burrillville

Dear Mayor Elorza:

The Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council is comprised of seventeen (17) Local Trade Unions and approximately 9,500 members, many whom live in Providence. On behalf of the officers and members, I am writing to you in regards to the above proposed power plant in Burrillville.

As you know, the State of Rhode Island General Assembly enacted legislation creating a process and forum for approving proposed energy facility projects. The purpose of this enabling legislation is to insulate the process from politics and provide a forum for experienced energy professionals to analyze on whether or not these projects are in the best interests of the State of Rhode Island. These professionals weigh factors such as need, cost-justification, public health and environmental impacts, and socio-economic benefits of these proposed projects.

Unfortunately, however, current opponents of the proposed Burrillville power plant are doing everything they can to politicize the process in order to stop this project. This includes a recent baseless lawsuit filed against the Town of Johnston relative to the agreement they entered into with Invenenergy for the sale of water, which I understand the City is being solicited to become a plaintiff in. If your real intention for becoming a plaintiff would be to kill this project all together, I urge you not to for the following reasons:

1. The opponents are not allowing the decision to be made by those who have the expertise to determine whether or not this project is in the State's best interests.

2. This is the largest construction project in the history of our state. Since it will be built under a project labor agreement, all the craftsmen and women hired will be referred through the local union halls of the RIBCTC. These workers will be local, and many will be City of Providence residents.

3. The PLA will impose an apprentice utilization requirement for 15% of all hours worked. Any and all new apprentice hires will come from ***Building Futures***. As a consequence, these new hires will not only be from Rhode Island, ***in all likelihood they will be from Providence***.

4. National Grid has just requested a 53% rate increase. This will increase the average household electricity bill by about \$20 per month. ***While I am sure that many on the East Side of Providence can easily afford such an increase, most of the people in the City, our members included, cannot.***

5. Moreover, since we already have some of the highest energy costs in the country now, a 53% will make our economy even less competitive; and, when that occurs companies do not invest in any capital projects. This will further limit job opportunities for our members and City residents.

6. A 53% rate increase will also increase the City electricity costs. ***This will almost assuredly result in a tax increase.***

7. Becoming a party to litigation will cost the City resources that could certainly be used for other pressing needs.

8. Opponents are completely misstating the environmental effects. In fact, according to expert testimony submitted to the State Energy Facility Siting Board this project will actually lower CO² emissions.

If the proposed power plant is as bad as the opponents say it is, the EFSB is compelled by statute to deny Invenergy's application. If not, however, you will have confidence that this project was analyzed on the merits rather than through an irrational political process. Accordingly, on behalf of our members that reside in Providence, as well as all the taxpayers of the City, for all of the above reasons I urge you to not to become a plaintiff in this lawsuit.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

/s/Michael F. Sabitoni
President

cc: City Council