



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL COURT  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

February 11, 2008

Steven C. Pangiotakis, Chairman  
Senate Ways and Means  
Room 330, State House  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear: Senator

We are writing to you regarding section 103N of Senate Bill 2468, "An Act to Generate Renewable Energy and Efficiency Now". This section was added to the bill by an amendment in the Senate and it would prevent the siting of a power plant within a mile of a playground, licensed day-care center, school, church, area of critical environmental concern, as determined by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs pursuant to 301 CMR 12.00, or an area occupied by residential housing in the City of Brockton and the towns of West Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Easton and Walpole. We urge the Conference committee to retain this section and adopt language that would prevent a power plant in these communities.

This section addresses the proposed siting of power plants in Brockton and Walpole. In Brockton, a 350 megawatt, dual-fueled, combined-cycled electric power plant with a 250 foot stack is planned to be built and operated on Oak Hill way in the City of Brockton. As proposed, the plant would be powered by a combination of natural gas and diesel fuel. The diesel fuel would be used for at least 60 days a year and would require the location of a 750,000 storage tank at the facility. When the plant is operating on diesel fuel, at least 75 truck trips a day would be required to refuel the storage tank.

The proponents are also seeking approval to use effluent from the nearby wastewater treatment plant owned and operated by the City of Brockton for the plant's cooling towers.

While the proposed site is in an industrially zoned area, it abuts densely populated residential areas. The proposed plant would be as close as 800 feet from residential homes, 1,600 feet from an "over 55" community in West Bridgewater and within 1,670 feet of the Edgar B. Davis elementary school in Brockton.

We believe that if this plant were to be built, air quality in the immediate area of the plant, as well as the region, will be adversely impacted. According to the plant's proponents the construction and operation of this plant would result in the following projected emissions:

1. 185 tons per year (tpy) of particulate matter
2. 109 tpy of Carbon Monoxide
3. 7 tpy of Sulfur Monoxide
4. 31 tpy of Volatile Organic Compounds
5. 107 tpy of Oxides of Nitrogen
6. 1,134,000 tpy of Carbon Dioxide
7. 7.247 tpy of Hazardous Air pollutants

This proposed plant will have a negative impact on the abutting residential neighborhoods. There are serious concerns regarding the health impacts to our constituents. Brockton is already ranked ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) on the list of environmentally overburdened New England communities and ranked third (3<sup>rd</sup>) in FY 1999 for asthma hospitalization rates in Massachusetts. The use of wastewater effluent to cool the plant also raises additional health concerns.

We are also very concerned about the increase in heavy truck traffic that would be necessitated by the coming and going of 75 fuel delivery trucks per day when the diesel component of the plant is in operation. These trucks will have to travel through residential neighborhoods in West Bridgewater, East Bridgewater and Brockton to reach the plant. The near tragic events in Everett late last year only underscores the inherent dangers of routing a large number of fuel trucks through residential neighborhoods.

Finally, we believe that the building of this plant will have an adverse effect on residential property values in the surrounding neighborhood and abutting communities. The addition of a power plant does not increase values to adjacent residential properties.

While we urge you to support and retain Section 103N, we are aware that some concerns have been raised suggesting that the language as adopted in the amendment would inadvertently restrict or eliminate the development of other types of desirable renewable power generating facilities, pipelines and transmission lines. In order to resolve those concerns and to limit our objection to this specific power plant in Brockton, we would recommend the following language:

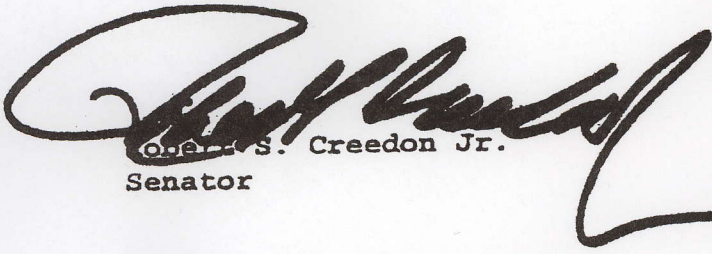
SECTION 103N. Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, in the city of Brockton, or in the towns of West Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Easton and Walpole, no fossil fuel electric power facilities or facility shall be located in an area which is less than 1 mile in linear distance from a playground, licensed day-care center, school, church, area of critical environmental concern, as determined by the secretary of environmental affairs pursuant to 301 CMR 12.00, or an area occupied by residential housing. Said linear distance shall be measured from the outermost perimeter of such facility to the outermost point of the aforementioned zones; provided, however that any such facility in operation on January 1, 2007, shall not be subject to this act. For the purpose of this section, "fossil fuel electric power facilities or facility" shall be defined as any electric generating power plant that is fueled in whole or in part, by coal, oil or natural gas.

We have also enclosed a map which shows the proximity of the power plant to the residential neighborhoods as well as the probable truck routes.

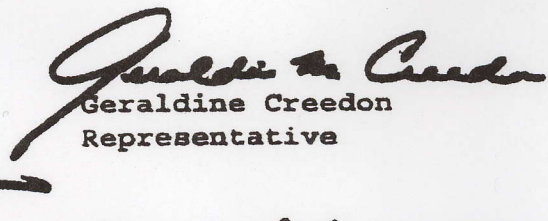
In conclusion, we would just like to add that while the siting of energy facilities is the purview of the Energy Facility Siting Council, its members are not elected to represent the interests of the citizens of the Commonwealth, as we are. We believe that the opinions of our constituents combined with the mandate of Article V of our state Constitution requires our opposition to this proposed facility.

Thank you for your consideration.

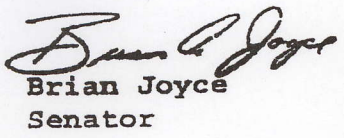
Sincerely,



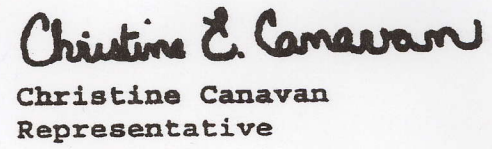
Robert S. Creedon Jr.  
Senator



Geraldine Creedon  
Representative



Brian Joyce  
Senator



Christine E. Canavan  
Representative



Thomas Kennedy  
Representative