

proposed power plant.txt

From: Christine Warda
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2009 11:03 AM
To: Weyman Lee
Subject: proposed power plant

Dear Weyman Lee,

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I am a professor at Chabot College in Hayward. This is my third year on tenure track. I left a PhD program at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale to take this position, because I am from this area and would like to settle here. The job offer was ideal and I quickly moved across country to take it.

When I arrived, I heard about the proposed power plants in our area and became immediately skeptical. I decided to investigate further to learn as much as possible about them. It concerns me that city/local officials think putting in power plants next to schools and an airport is a good idea. Aside from minor (potential) financial gain, the impact to the community's health, safety, and environment would be horrible and costly. I cannot see how this plan continues to be pursued.

As a community, Chabot College intends to lead the area in pursuing green, sustainable means of energy. We have installed solar panels in our parking lot to decrease dependency on an overworked grid. Our new buildings and remodeled classrooms are rated some of the best in the state because they meet very high environmental standards. Currently, we are pursuing research aimed at decreasing the number of cars traveling to and from campus daily. We do not just talk the talk. We are actively trying to walk the walk.

While all of us who work at Chabot may not live in the city of Hayward, we all invest a great deal of time, energy, and money there. We are tax-paying, voting citizens located throughout the Bay Area and we are committed to preserving this beautiful place that we call home. In order to do this, we need elected and appointed officials to represent us and our efforts to create and maintain innovative means to secure energy. We do NOT want to be part of the problem any longer. Our goal is to be working toward creative solutions, building new industries, and teaching our community that each of us can make a difference.

We do not need nor do we want a polluting power plant anywhere near us. Let San Mateo County invest in that type of energy, if that's their desire. We should consider our present woes (environmental degradation/pollution, local factory/plant closures, layoffs, foreclosures, etc.) and explore the potential of emerging industries in our area. We want to invest in sustainable companies and practices that provide jobs, bring back investors, and decrease pollutants - something this power plant will not.

Thank you again for your time. I trust our voices will not fade in this matter.

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The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of her wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind. - Kahlil Gibran