

A Rallying Cry- We Won't Give Up the Fight. No Invenergy for Burrillville

Submitted By: Burrillville Town Council President John F. Pacheco III

Bring it on. A united Burrillville is ready for the fight. **We Do Not Want an Invenergy Power Plant.** We are doing whatever we can to fight it on as many fronts as are available.

Our attorneys are taking the battle against this polluting monster to the one decision maker- the Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB). We have demanded the EFSB dismiss the Invenergy application.

The Town Council is asking other Rhode Island communities to join us in our opposition. I personally have asked Woonsocket's Mayor and City Council President to refuse any request from Invenergy for water.

We couldn't be any clearer. **We Do Not Want Invenergy in our Town.** We didn't invite Invenergy to come to Burrillville. The Council remained neutral so it wouldn't corrupt the process, allowing our experts to reach their own conclusions. And we weren't surprised when those conclusions supported our position- **Invenergy does not belong in Burrillville.**

The fight isn't over. We are prepared, on behalf of our residents, to continue battling Invenergy. We are prepared to aggressively engage. We know it may cost us hundreds of thousands if not over a million dollars. But even as we fight we must also be prepared and protected. My fellow council members and I have a responsibility to all residents of our community, and to the fiscal stability of our community.

On November 3, 2016, the Town Council voted to approve a package of agreements with Invenergy. It is with some trepidation that the Council moved forward with what some have called a 'deal with the devil'. In fact, on more than one occasion, the Council instructed our attorneys and Town Manager to go back to Invenergy and demand a more generous package. Not to be intimidated by Invenergy's tactics and its deep pockets, we hammered out one of the most aggressive and generous packages in the Northeast.

Many have asked us why we approved the package of agreements.

First and foremost- protection.

Signed contracts will hold up in the event Invenergy wins approval to come to Burrillville. The contracts protect us from legislative maneuverings, political favors

and costly legal challenges. Simply put- no matter what, even if Invenergy leaves or sells to another entity, Burrillville will get between \$92 million and \$181 million over the next 20 years. No matter what, property abutters are guaranteed payments-and compensation, even purchase of their homes. No matter what, Invenergy will be responsible upon decommissioning to restore the site to its original state.

Second - money for the fight.

We aren't done. In some ways the battle has just begun. The Town is prepared to mount its opposition on several fronts. **We refuse to accept this plant.** Ironically, we are going to make Invenergy give us the money to wage our opposition. The almost \$1.2 million in fees and upfront payments that Invenergy will pay us as part of the agreement package will provide much needed resources to continue with our challenge. **It's a maneuver that Invenergy may find distasteful- but frankly- I don't care. Actually I take a certain satisfaction in forcing Invenergy to pay us to fight them.**

Invenergy won't just walk away.

Some have said Invenergy would drop its application if the Town refused to sign the package of agreements. That just isn't true. Invenergy isn't going to walk away willingly. To do so would cost it millions of dollars. The tax agreement protects the Town's interest. Without it, an unchecked Invenergy, with its resources and political influence, can mount million dollar legal challenges, lobby for changes in legislation and take advantage of ambiguous loopholes.

This isn't about politics. It's about what's right.

The Invenergy power plant has polarized the town, and there certainly is a political element to the debate. But stepping back from the rhetoric- the bi-partisan Town Council is united in its position. Without exception and despite political repercussions Town officials are determined to do the right thing for residents.