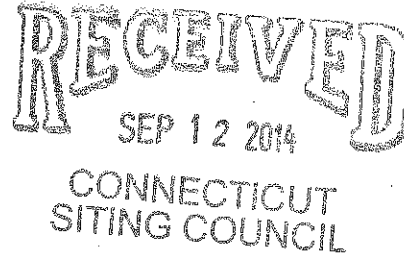


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BILL FINCH  
Mayor

September 11, 2014



RE: PETITION NO. 1104

Dear Connecticut Siting Council Members:

Thank you chairman Stein and members of the council for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Bill Finch and I am the Mayor of Bridgeport, which is our state's largest city.

The project before you today is a key piece of our city's sustainability plan, titled BGreen2020, which aims to make our city a place for our kids and grandkids to choose to live, work, and raise their families.

Green Energy Park, which has been spearheaded by United Illuminating, consists of 9,000 solar panels and a 2.8 MW fuel cell. It will create up to 92 jobs. And, it is expected to earn the city \$7 million over the course of its lease. With that said, my goal is to give you a new statement on this project.

My last official statement on this project was in April 2012. At that time, we were seeking approval of this project from the state's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). And, since receiving approval from PURA, the project has generated overwhelming support at the local level. It was passed by the Parks Commission, and most recently by the Bridgeport City Council with a vote of 15-5. That means all of Bridgeport's local regulatory bodies support this project.

It has also received support from our two state senators – Anthony Musto and Andres Ayala – and from three of our state representatives: Don Clemons, Ezekiel Santiago, and Reverend Charles Stallworth.

This overwhelming support for this project at the local level is simple: We have an old, polluted, and dormant piece of property at the Seaside landfill. But with Green Energy Park, we have an opportunity to change that by using this parcel as a green jobs creator that brings in tax revenue to the city, and powers thousands of homes with clean energy that will ensure our kids breathe cleaner air.

This project also will help better position Bridgeport for the future. As the co-chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Task Force, I know all too well that city's like Bridgeport – which account for significantly less greenhouse gas emissions than suburbs – are the key to a sustainable future for our kids and grandkids.

For example, according to the University of Berkley, a Bridgeport household produces less than half of the carbon emissions of an average Easton, Connecticut household generates annually.

With that said, in order to beat back climate change, it's critical that our city's experience population growth, which means more kids and families need to move to Bridgeport. And, in order to make our city a more enticing place for people to live, we need to create jobs, generate power through clean energy sources so our kids breathe cleaner air, and ensure companies want to invest and hire people.

Eco-Technology Park, a run-down section on our city's west side that is being revitalized through green job creation and clean energy production, is critical to this endeavor. So far, Eco-Technology Park has resulted in more than 200 jobs and many more to come. And, these new jobs have resulted in more than \$10 million in annual personal income.

In addition to green job creation, Eco-Technology Park is serving as a hub for clean energy production. North America's largest fuel cell is housed within the Eco-Technology Park, and generates enough virtually emission free energy to power up to 15,000 homes.

As the chief executive of our city, I view this as just the beginning. This is especially true since the developments cornerstone project, Green Energy Park, has yet to launch.

Green Energy Park will create up to 92 jobs in Bridgeport, and will power up to 5,000 homes with virtually pollutant free energy.

This is particularly important since Bridgeport kids suffer from asthma rates that are nearly 3 times higher than the state average. But clean energy production results in less air pollution, leading to lower asthma and breathing ailment rates for kids.

The project also converts a dormant parcel of land into a tax revenue generator for the city. With the United Illuminating plan for Green Energy Park, we'll bring in more than \$7 million dollars in tax revenue to the city over the next 20 years.

With that said, I have a vision for the future of Bridgeport. Some of it is already taking shape, which is evidenced by the establishment and success of Eco-Technology Park. But that vision will be compromised without Green Energy Park being realized, and that's not fair to our kids and grandkids.

This project creates jobs. It produces clean energy. It helps ensure our kids breathe cleaner air. It helps reduce asthma and breathing ailment rates for kids. It grows our tax base. And, it's proof that our city can heal from the sins of our past and move toward a cleaner and more prosperous future.

Members of the council, I urge you to support this project. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
Bill Finch  
Mayor