

Thank you CO-Chairs Mr. Fonfara, Madame Nardello, and the committee members for the opportunity to speak here today.

My name is Anne Berté and I live in Trumbull CT.

I, along with my family, am here today to support SB 461. I felt it was important for our children to see this process and participate as they are well aware of the power plant issue. There is no escaping the topic... which is disturbing, but there is also no escaping seeing the surge and power of a community uniting. That is exactly what is going on in Trumbull. Strangely I am actually grateful that I am witness to it... and what example it sets for my children.

There are many new things that I have learned since receiving a certified letter on February 9 informing me that a power plant is slated to be dropped directly across the street from my front door, right at my children's bus stop. It still is shocking to say that because it is so nonsensical. I wish you all could just take a leisurely stroll down my street or sit on my front porch and you would understand.

I have learned many disturbing things and have become, along with my community, quite knowledgeable on all things fuel cell and energy related. Not my choice of topics to study as I am a public school social worker and a Mom, but here I am.

This is not the time or the place to discuss most of my concerns. But it is time to discuss my 2 most alarming concerns. These are 2 things that are currently missing from this perilous predicament that our community and our state are in.

One: Under current law my voice, my neighbors voices, and my town's voice does not have to be heard by the CT Siting Council. That has to be an oversight. My children know that I may not always agree with them, but I let them voice their thoughts.

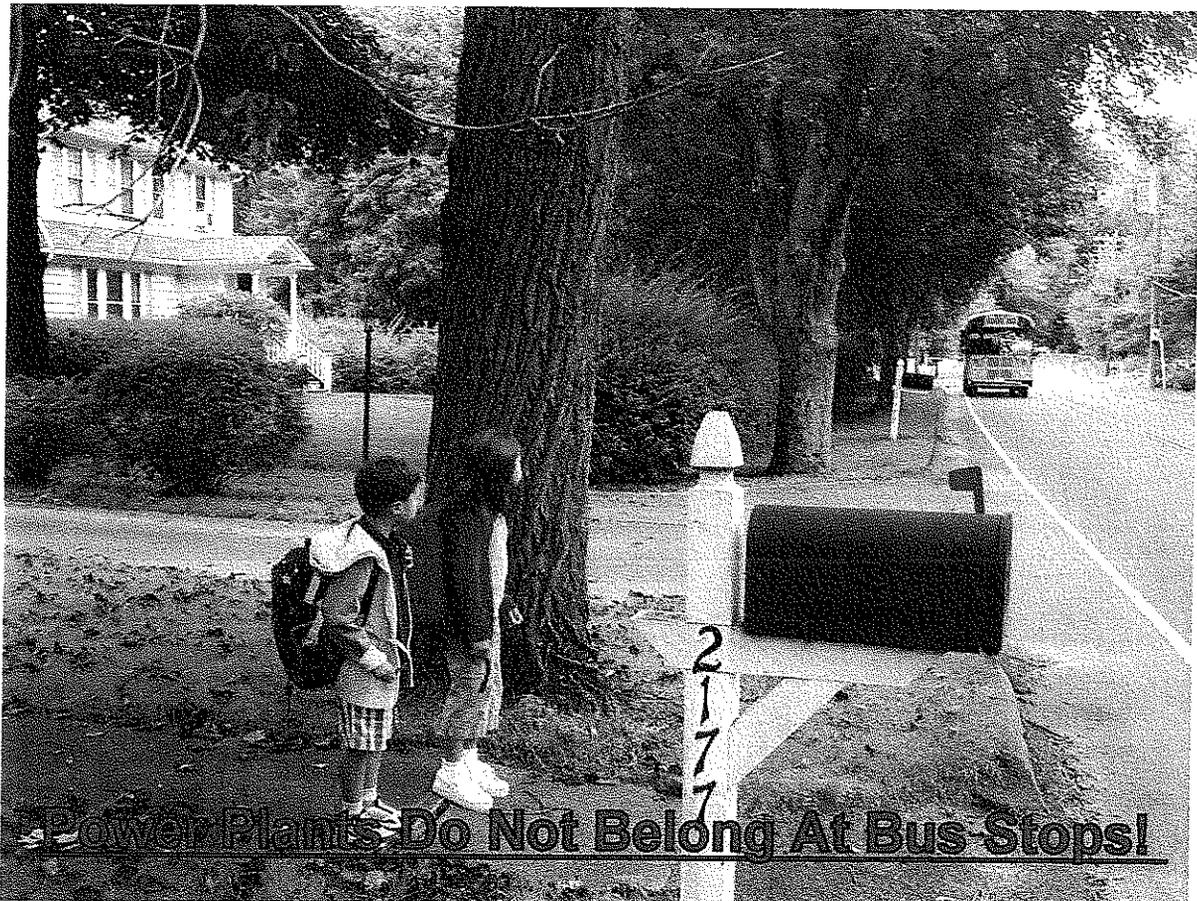
and Two, under current law, public safety is NOT even a valid issue for the CT Siting Council to consider. Let me repeat that. Public safety is NOT even a valid issue. I can't get the article I read out of my thoughts in which Chairman Fonfara asked 5 experts to name the state agency responsible for enforcing safety measures during construction and operation of power plants. Chairman Fonfara, you called the silence deafening when there was no answer to that question. I am grateful that you asked these questions and for your commitment to address it. As you can imagine this is haunting for my community to think about.

I am asking you to give me my voice, which, by the way, I thought I had all along, so actually please restore my voice, as it should be, with the Ct Siting Council and please give The Siting Council their voice to be able to ask questions. Simple questions like... are there schools close by?, Are there a parks nearby?

Is there a historic district nearby? Is there a playground nearby? Are their bus stops nearby? All answers by the way are yes in Trumbull.

I am here today to not only support SB461 for my family, and my town, but other families, in the many other towns that aren't even aware that this is heading for them. Please vote in favor of this bill and thank you for your time and attention. It is important to my town and it will be to many other CT towns, maybe even your town.

Respectfully Submitted-
Anne Berté
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(Directly across from the chosen Trumbull Site)



Keep Our Bus Stop Safe!

Isabel and Jack Berté at their bus stop directly across from proposed power plant site. Power plants do not belong in residential neighborhoods.