



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIRMAN  
Committee on Governmental Operations

COMMITTEES  
Education  
Energy  
Higher Education  
Rules

STEVEN ENGLEBRIGHT  
4<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Suffolk County

March 12, 2014

The Honorable Edward Romaine  
Supervisor, Town of Brookhaven  
One Independence Hill  
Farmingville, New York 11738

Dear Supervisor Romaine and Members of the Town Board:

I want to thank you for your strong comments in your State of the Town address calling for repowering of the Port Jefferson power plant. I am sure that the people of Port Jefferson feel supported by your inclusion of the re-commissioning of this important legacy plant in your address.

I believe that in order to ensure that the Port Jefferson plant will be repowered, it is important to hold off from making decisions today that would imperil the likelihood of repowering.

In 2006, before that original Caithness plant was approved and prior to my giving support, I was assured that the Port Jefferson power plant would be repowered before any expansion of the Caithness facility. It was then that representatives of LIPA assured me and others that the first Caithness plant was actually necessary in order to repower the Port Jefferson plant. Their logic was that a single Caithness plant would be necessary for our area due to the need for replacement power while the legacy plant in Port Jefferson was out of service during the repowering period.

In 2012, the Village of Port Jefferson commissioned a study on the economics of repowering the legacy plant, which also analyzed the electrical power needs of Long Island over the next 10 years. Its conclusion was "if a proposal for the new construction of at least 700 megawatts is awarded through this RFP there would be no capacity market need for Port Jefferson repowering well beyond 2022." According to the analysis of this study, the size of the currently proposed Caithness II would then seriously impact the rationale for repowering Port Jefferson.

It was also demonstrated (under the amended and restated Power Service Agreement dated October 10, 2012, negotiated between the Long Island Power Authority and the owner or successor of LILCO legacy power generating facilities, as referenced in section 15 of Part A of Chapter 173 of the Laws of 2013) that there would be a need for increased generation of about 400 megawatts in our region to meet growing power demand and to take the Port Jefferson plant off line during the repowering process. The Caithness II proposal at 750 megawatts is a dramatic increase of hundreds of megawatts over any reasonable estimate of current or future power needs for the area and would wholly preclude re-commissioning of the Port Jefferson plant as well as seriously impair the development of a coherent strategy of renewables moving forward.

I support and admire the innovative work your office has done to create and implement a workable plan to protect the Carmans River as well as your readiness to allocate funds to preserve critical parcels in its watershed. That is why I was especially disturbed to learn that Caithness II needs extensive pipeline construction with one of the alternatives routing directly right through the environmentally sensitive headwaters of the Carmans River. How can an informed environmental or economic decision be made without addressing how the increased gas supply would be piped into the Caithness II facility?

It is also my understanding that Caithness II will be seeking reduced property tax payments and other financial incentives through the Town's Industrial Development Agency. As you are aware one of the central principles of granting tax benefits, beyond promoting job retainage or growth, is that they do not harm existing localities such as the Village of Port Jefferson which will face serious economic consequences should the Town's approval of Caithness lead to abandonment of the Port Jefferson power plant and LIPA's failure to repower it.

There are many critical issues that remain unresolved. That is why I reiterate my request that you reject the proposals before you and protect the people of the Town of Brookhaven and the Village of Port Jefferson by preserving the option to recycle and give adaptive reuse to our Town's most important legacy power generation site. A rejection will also enable alternative projects involving renewable sources of energy to become the new expectation that private energy market investors should look to when proposing projects in our Town.

Thank you for your kind consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Englebright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Englebright

cc: Senator Ken LaValle  
Mayor Margot Garant