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Ethanol plant poses real dangers

I am adamantly opposed to the building of any ethanol plant by any developer, at the Cumberland Valley Business Park, (formerly Letterkenny Army Depot property), as proposed by the Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority.

Furthermore, I oppose the development, building and operation of any such facility anywhere in Pennsylvania within a 10-mile radius of any residences, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, businesses etc.

After reading the plethora of information on the Citizens for a Quality Environment (C4AQE) Web site, (www.c4aqe.org) about all of the real and potential environmental and safety hazards, I believe it is not in this community's best interest to go ahead with this plan.

In addition, such a plant could be a "target of opportunity" for sabotage or terrorists, what I call a ready-made "dirty bomb" in our backyards.

Ask yourselves: If Lancaster County didn't want this plant because it poses real and potential public health and safety issues, why would we in Franklin County want or need such a plant?

Of course, for the residents who live within the 2.5-mile "immediate evacuation zone," it is a no-brainer to oppose this "disaster waiting to happen."

I wonder how many of the LIDA board members live within a 2.5-mile radius of the proposed plant site? It is easy to be in favor of such a harmful enterprise when there is no immediate or direct ill effect to be realized from such a poor and ill-conceived decision.

Well, I live within the immediate evacuation zone, and this plant will immediately devalue my property and potentially, the property of thousands of other area property owners, and pose an immediate and omnipresent danger to the health and welfare of all.

Who wants millions of gallons of gasoline, thousands of pounds of ammonia, 7,000 gallons of sulfuric acid and other volatile, deadly and dangerous fuels and chemicals stored in their neighborhood? No one with any common sense, that's who!

Citizens in general in Frank-lin County, and the state, should be opposed to the building of ethanol plants (and any other such hazardous manufacturing businesses that are known polluters, and environmentally and socially harmful), anywhere in the state — especially where there are "clear and present" dangers to that community.

Within a five-mile radius of the proposed site at CVBP are nursing homes, elderly and infirmed adults and children, other people, schools, a hospital, housing developments, farms, an airport, churches, businesses, streams, ponds, and the list goes on. Who is going to guarantee their safety when disaster strikes such a lethal facility?

Do you think LIDA and its staff are going to stand by with gas masks, chemical suits, buses, medical teams etc., to assist affected residents in their time of need? I don't think so, because once the deal is done they are out of the picture.

We, the potentially affected citizens, will be left to fend for ourselves. I do not believe, at any given time, that there are enough public and private "first-responder" emergency personnel available (within a five-mile radius of the proposed plant) to assist and evacuate the number of potential casualties that could result from a major catastrophe at such a hazardous plant.

Citizens of Franklin County need to write to their elected, appointed, and other officials and oppose this bad decision before it is too late. We, the voters, taxpayers, property owners, renters and other vested citizens are the people who should ultimately decide our fates.

We should not, in good and clear conscience, leave such an important and potentially harmful and irresponsible decision to a board of "appointed special citizens"; people who may not have our best health and safety interests at the top of their agendas.

LIDA is a business organization and has a vested interest in bringing this plant to CVBP.

Please go to the www.c4aqe.org Web site and get educated on the harmful effects an ethanol plant will have on our beautiful Cumberland Valley, and elsewhere in Pennsylvania. You have a duty to act to keep our community safe, healthy and prosperous, now, and for our future generations.

May God bless you, our beautiful community, and state.

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