

MY NAME IS KATHY MCGRAW. I OWN A COTTAGE ON SOUND SHORE RD THAT WAS BUILT BY MY GRANDFATHER IN THE 1930'S. MY MOTHER, GRANDPARENTS AND GREAT GRANDPARENTS ALL LIVED IN RIVERHEAD—CONKLINS, SWEZYS, AND VAILS. MY BROTHERS WERE BORN IN CENTRAL SUFFOLK HOSPITAL, WE ALL TOOK SWIM LESSONS AT THE IRON PIER BACK WHEN WE COULD LOOK OUT AND SEE CT WITH NO PLATFORM IN THE WAY. I HAVE SPENT TIME EVERY ONE OF MY 66 SUMMERS AT NORTHVILLE BEACH. RIVERHEAD AND THE NORTH FORK ARE UNIQUE IN THE STATE OF NY—I LOVE THIS PLACE AND I DON'T WANT IT SPOILED BY THE UNWARRANTED EXPANSION OF THE URT.

SO HOW DID THIS INDUSTRIAL EYESORE COME TO BE ALLOWED ON THE SCENIC BLUFFS OF THE LI SOUND? MY PARENTS AND 28 OTHERS VOICED THEIR OBJECTIONS AT A TOWN BOARD MEETING ON AUGUST 16, 1955. AT THAT MEETING AS WELL AS OTHERS, THE TOWN BOARD UNANIMOUSLY VOICED ITS EMPHATIC OBJECTION TO THE TERMINAL OBSERVING THAT "THIS FACILITY WOULD CREATE MANY UNPLEASANT CONDITIONS IN THE ENTIRE AREA." SO IF THE BOARD WAS OPPOSED, HOW DID THE OIL TERMINAL GET THROUGH? AS THE TOWN ATTORNEY NOTED AT THE HEARING IN 1955, ONCE THE STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS GAVE ITS OK, IN THE ABSENCE OF ZONING IN THE TOWN OF RIVERHEAD, THERE WAS SIMPLY NO WAY TO STOP THIS UNWANTED OIL TERMINAL.

BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED. RIVERHEAD NOW HAS ZONING, AND UNLIKE THE BOARD IN 1955, YOU ARE IN THE CATBIRD SEAT. THE ZONING ORDINANCE, EMPOWERS YOU, NOT THE STATE OR THE DEC, TO DECIDE WHETHER URT'S EXPANSION SHOULD BE APPROVED. THIS TIME IT IS IN YOUR HANDS, AND YOUR HANDS ALONE, AND YOU CAN AND SHOULD SAY NO.

THE NEW OWNER OF THE TERMINAL, BILLIONAIRE CATSAMITIDIS, WANTS TO BRING IN, MIX, STORE AND DISTRIBUTE GASOLINE—A MUCH MORE UNSTABLE, EXPLOSIVE PRODUCT THAN HOME HEATING OIL. SINCE GASOLINE HAS NOT BEEN STORED AT THE TERMINAL IN MORE THAN 10 YEARS, UNDER 108-51C, THIS NONCONFORMING USE MAY NOT BE UNILATERALLY REESTABLISHED BY URT. AS YOU KNOW, THE TERMINAL IS SMACK IN THE MIDDLE RESIDENTIALLY ZONED PROPERTY.

I DIGRESS FOR A MOMENT, WE ARE TOLD THE TERMINAL HAS A PERMIT FOR ITS GASOLINE, BUT I HAVE SPOKEN WITH THE DEC AND, WHILE URT'S AIR STATE FACILITY PERMIT WAS APPROVED LAST JUNE, NOTWITHSTANDING URT'S FAILURE TO TIMELY SEEK ITS RENEWAL, THE AIR PERMIT THE URT IS NOW SEEKING TO COVER ITS NEW OPERATIONS, HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED. IT IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW BY THE DEC, WILL NEED TO BE PUBLISHED AS A LEGAL NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, AND WILL THEN NEED TO GO TO THE EPA. BUT WE KNOW, IF APPROVED, THIS NEW PERMIT WILL ALLOW SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE LIMITS OF NOXIOUS NOX AND VOC EMISSIONS. MOREOVER, THERE WILL BE AN ALLOWABLE THROUGHPUT OF 504,000 GALLONS OF GASOLINE PER DAY. THIS EQUATES TO AN ADDITIONAL 40 OR MORE GASOLINE TANKER TRUCKS GOING BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE TERMINAL CLOGGING SOUND AVENUE AND THE SURROUNDING ROADS. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A DRAMATIC EXPANSION OF AN UNWANTED FACILITY THAT IS TOTALLY AT ODDS WITH THE DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS OCCURRED ON THE NORTH FORK—NAMELY RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS, RECREATIONAL AREAS, VINEYARDS, GOLF COURSES, FARM STANDS, AND NURSERIES. THIS AGRITOURISM THAT RIVERHEAD

AND THE NORTH FORK WANT TO PROMOTE IS JUST FLAT OUT INCOMPATIBLE WITH AN EXPANSION OF THE URT.

LOOKING AT THE TOWN CODE, I SEE THAT TO APPROVE THIS SPECIAL PERMIT, AMONG A NUMBER OF FACTORS, YOU THE TOWN BOARD MUST CONCLUDE THAT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE, COMFORT, CONVENIENCE AND ORDER OF THE TOWN WILL NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS EXPANSION. I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU CAN IN GOOD CONSCIENCE REACH SUCH A CONCLUSION. THE TOWN CODE ALSO REQUIRES THE APPLICANT TO SHOW THAT THE NEW USE WILL NOT BE MORE OBJECTIONAL TO NEARBY PROPERTIES THAN THE EXISTING USE. CLEARLY, AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE TURNOUT TONIGHT, TRANSPORTING HIGHLY FLAMMABLE GASOLINE THROUGH RESIDENTIALLY ZONED PROPERTY IS INFINITELY MORE OBJECTIONABLE TO ALL THE RESIDENTS IN THAT SURROUNDING PROPERTY THAN THE MORE STABLE HOME HEATING OIL THAT IS NOW BEING TRANSPORTED.

YOU ARE THE GUARDIANS OF RIVERHEAD WHICH IS THE GATEWAY TO THE NORTH FORK OF LI. YOU KNOW WHAT A VERY SPECIAL PLACE THIS IS. AND YOU CAN BE CERTAIN IF THIS KIND OF GASOLINE DISTRIBUTION CENTER WERE BEING PROPOSED FOR THE SOUTH FORK, MR. C, A HOMEOWNER IN QUOGUE, WOULD BE FIGHTING IT TOOTH AND NAIL. WHAT THEN MAKES THIS ACTIVITY ON THE NORTH FORK ACCEPTABLE? WE ARE NOT THE UGLY STEPCHILD OF THE EAST END. ARGUABLY, IN FACT, YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO PRESERVE OUR PIECE OF THE EAST END IN A WAY THAT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE ON THE SOUTH FORK. THE NORTH FORK NEEDS YOUR PROTECTION; PLEASE STAND UP TO MR CASTIMATIDES AND DO THE RIGHT THING FOR RIVERHEAD. DO WHAT THE BOARD IN 1955 COULD NOT DO, AND DENY THIS SPECIAL PERMIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOWN'S ZONING LAWS.