

Town Clerk  
200 Howell Ave.  
Riverhead, NY 11901

Re: Special Permit Request – United Riverhead Terminal, N.Y.

On Tuesday, 10/21/14, I attended a Riverhead Town Board meeting during which the above item was discussed at length. As a member of the Northville Beach community, I was dismayed to hear that the United Riverhead Terminal (URT), has filed for a permit to expand operations at its Sound Shore Rd. facility, to include ethanol/gasoline storage and mixing, as well as distribution via an estimated 12 tractor- trailer loads per day, 7 days per week. The terminology used in URT's presentation included phrases like," at this time" and " depending upon demand" both of which are open-ended and would allow the facility to expand even further in the future. In addition, the traffic study and environmental paperwork presented seemed woefully inadequate to support such a request.

A number of Northville residents voiced their opposition to this proposed expansion, both in person and via letters. In summary, these individuals cited environmental concerns, adverse traffic impacts, site security, potential terrorism, fire safety issues, overall impact to the burgeoning North Fork tourism industry, and negative impact on local real estate values. I am in wholehearted agreement with these sentiments.

In 2012, I purchased a vacation property at 726 Sound Shore Rd, east of the URT site. I was aware of the existence of the facility and understood that the current and historic nature of the operation involved off-loading of #6 home heating oil at the offshore platform and transportation of the oil from the site by small tank trucks; essentially a benign operation, with little to no impact on the local community. Had I known that the URT facility might become the gasoline depot for eastern Long Island, I certainly would have reconsidered the purchase.

If you are truly interested in fostering agri-business and tourism as essential components of the economies of Riverhead Town and the greater North Fork, an expansion of the URT facility stands in direct opposition to that goal. I understand that the gas/oil industry is highly regulated, but all it would take is one catastrophic incident to ruin everything that the North Fork has been and looks forward to being in the future. Can you afford to take that chance?

I respectfully ask that the town board recognize that this proposed expansion of the URT facility is not in the publics' best interest, and that you do not approve any such project now or in the future.

Yours truly,

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