

BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

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Board of Commissioners, Sampson County
435 Rowan Road
Clinton, NC 28328

Commissioners:

On behalf of the members of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, I write to comment on Sampson County's proposed tax incentives for Fibrowatt LLC. The plant under discussion for Sampson County would burn poultry litter as fuel and generate electricity for sale to a public utility and distribution to the utility's customers.

We urge the commissioners to consider the environmental and public health impacts that will result from the combustion of poultry litter. As of now, the discussion of Fibrowatt's decision to locate in Sampson County has focused on job creation and the additional tax base. However, this plant would be a major source of nitrogen oxide contributing to North Carolina's air quality problems with ozone. Existing power plants are already spending billions of dollars to clean up nitrogen oxide emissions. Burning poultry litter, as the attached graph indicates, is actually dirtier than the new coal plant at Cliffside recently permitted by the state.

Fibrowatt anticipates compliance with North Carolina's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard. This statute restricts eligible biomass resources to "biomass that uses Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for air emissions." Those technologies remain under study by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission. Pending development of those controls and emission limits, approval of new plants and the granting of financial incentives are premature.

North Carolina, including Sampson County, needs investments in clean energy and clean air. Tax breaks without adequate environmental protections encourage more pollution, put people's health at risk, and pass the cost on to taxpayers and ratepayers. We ask that you consider these impacts in your deliberations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

David Mickey
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League