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A RESOLUTION TO CALL ON PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER TO ADOPT POLICIES THAT LIMIT THE USE OF BIOMASS AS A FORM OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ACCURATELY ACCOUNT FOR THE CARBON IMPACTS OF DIFFERENT FEEDSTOCKS.

WHEREAS: North Carolina General Statutes provide, in Charter form, the rights of incorporated cities and municipalities to enact laws, codes and ordinances which enhance the quality of life and protect the citizenry and neighborhoods from situations which threaten the general health, welfare, aesthetics and well-being of the citizenry, and;

WHEREAS: The residents of New Hanover County are aware of the ENVIVA wood pellet project to be constructed on State owned property at the North end of the Wilmington State Port, and;

WHEREAS: The destruction of forests for energy is detrimental to the critical services forests provide, such as carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, water purification, and storm surge protection, and;

WHEREAS: The use of wood pellets for fuel is not a carbon neutral form of renewable energy, and will contribute to the rate of climate change and deforestation, and;

WHEREAS: The activities surrounding the ingress and egress of trucks and trains, coupled with the noises associated with the conveyer system at the port, will present a noise and dust pollution inconsistent with their proximity to nearby old established neighborhoods, and;

WHEREAS: The number of trucks projected to enter and exit the port daily (55 in and 55 out, total 110), places additional wear and tear on S. Front St. and Burnett Blvd, an area that is already congested and in poor condition. The stretch of roadway cannot support the amount of traffic congestion of an addition of 110 additional daily truck trips, and;

WHEREAS: The Enviva port is a bad economic investment and a poor use of taxpayer dollars as the wood pellet industry is vulnerable to changes in EU carbon emission and sustainability requirements.

THEREFORE: It is resolved that the signatories do hereby respectfully request that the governmental bodies which represent the citizens of Wilmington, New Hanover County, State of North Carolina, act appropriately to secure the rights of and provide protection to the residents of the areas involved and call on European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to reconsider policies which allow woody biomass as a form of renewable energy, contributing to the detriment of our forests, climate, and community.

*Submitted to N.H. Co. Democratic Party
Earla Pope, Precinct CF01
March 14, 2015*