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February 13, 2013

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Town of Acton Planning Board
C/o Roland Bartl
Acton Town Hall
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

Town of Acton
Planning Department

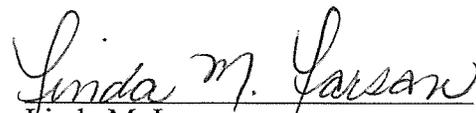
Dear Mr. Bartl and Members of the Planning Board:

This letter is sent in lieu of my presence at the public hearing scheduled for February 19, 2013, which I am unable to attend. I want to note my strong objection to the proposed amendment to the zoning bylaw 3.7 that would allow business and industrial zoning districts to store and sell firewood and other solid fuels and liquefied petroleum (LP) gas in limited customary retail quantities and allow the sales of heating oil and related services. Similarly, I would object to that part of the proposed amendment of zoning bylaw 3.6 that would allow the outdoor processing and storage of firewood and other solid fuels. Both these proposed amendments do not serve the best interests of the citizens of Acton.

I have been an Acton resident for most the past 43 years and one of my three daughters and her family continue to reside here as well. I served for many years as the Treasurer and Collector of the Water Supply District of Acton and "lived through" the W.R. Grace contamination of the public water supply. I firmly believe that there is no need in the town for the storage and sale of commercial fuels and firewood. I have never seen any public outcry for this perceived need, which must come from the business community, and not the general public. The outdoor processing and storage of firewood and other solid fuel is a risky business as these activities are potential pollutants to the air we breathe and the water that we drink.

I believe that any perceived benefit of this zoning change is outweighed by the potential risk of harm to the public. Fuel spills are probably the most common "accidents" that cause environmental harm. The Planning Board and the Town of Acton have done a wonderful job in protecting, to the best of its ability, the air we breathe as well as protecting Acton's share of the Commonwealth's rivers, streams and underground water supply. Do not change course now for the sake of convenience or pressures emanating from the business community.

I urge you to not recommend such a zoning change to the voters at town meeting. Thank-you for your thoughtful consideration in this matter.


Linda M. Larson