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**Subject:** My statement

**From:** John Pitkin <john\_pitkin@earthlink.net>

**Date:** 7/30/2012 3:26 PM

**To:** Erik Thorkildsen <ethork@ix.netcom.com>

Statement to City Council re: Unfinished Business Item 7, July 30, 2012

John Pitkin, 18 Fayette St.

could fit all new to n. get, he has a new town this his family, John ASKED ME TO READ THE FOLLOWING FOR HIM. ET: 253

as much, which I also support,

I am speaking about the need to plan for climate change and to question whether the proposed Forest City project that would be allowed by the rezoning petition before the Council is the kind of new building Cambridge needs or should allow in the age of climate change.

currently

The news about the climate since the 2009 Cambridge Climate Congress has been all bad: ~~The list is long, and~~ I will mention only a few items. Extreme high temperatures across most of North America this summer are damaging infrastructure, roads, and rails, and bringing a drought that will reduce national food supplies and raise food prices; there are large, destructive wildfires in many Western States, and just this week, there is a report from Harvard that the ozone layer that blocks radiation over our heads may be lost due to more powerful thunderstorms caused by climate change.

All the credible science tells us that these effects of climate change, and most likely worse ones, will be with us for as long as anyone here tonight is alive – and also for as long as buildings proposed by Forest City will stand.

We must ask if these buildings fit with a vision for this future for ourselves and for Cambridge. It is past time that we can answer this question in terms of whether the buildings are “green” or are LEED~~S~~ certified, or whether they represent “smart growth.” Just being better than development in the suburbs is not enough.

Any vision for the long time of climate change ahead must include adaptation to the foreseeable effects of climate change on our city and on us, ~~but~~ we must ~~also~~ plan to mitigate or **fight** climate change, to stop it, ~~because we cannot hope that we or~~ ~~our children or~~ ~~our~~ grandchildren should be condemned to adapt to a world of ever-rising seas, worse droughts, greater heat, and more powerful storms.

TRY TO

IN ADDITION,

NOT

We need a vision and a plan to implement that vision. I don't know what that vision or plan is in any detail, but a good place to start is with what Carl Pope, former director of the Sierra Club said when he spoke at Harvard last March. In order to stabilize the climate and stop climate change, we must cut U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 80% by 2050 and sooner if it all possible. To do that, he said, we will have to retrofit or replace every structure in the U.S. to close to a “net zero” emissions level. If he is right, then we must ~~also~~ expect, and

require

*COM 2012 #339*

**Communications #76**

A communication was received from John Pitkin, 18 Fayette Street expressing the need for a climate change plan as it relates to the Forest City building.

**In City Council July 30, 2012**

**REFERRED TO THE PETITION**

~~require~~ <sup>that</sup>, every new structure, starting now, ~~to~~ <sup>is</sup> be built to meet this standard.

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The proposed Forest City project does not appear to meet this standard, and unless the Council can establish that it does, I urge the Council to turn down the rezoning petition.

It's time to plan for the future of climate change and to fight it with everything we've got. We don't have any time to waste.

Next week  
7:30 Monday - <sup>Special</sup> meeting