

Dear Mayor Funkhouser and City Council,

My name is Ann Suellentrop and I live about 15 miles from the proposed site of the Honeywell Nuclear Weapons Production Plant at Highway 150 and Botts Road in Kansas City, Missouri. I live 11 miles from the present Plant on Bannister Road.

I oppose the ~\$40 million dollar subsidy for this new plant for the following reasons:

* I do not feel it is appropriate to use local tax money to build weapons of mass destruction. There are other higher priorities that the city should use its limited funds for the common good, such as schools and health care. It's outrageous that tax abatements could be granted to private developers to build a federal nuclear weapons production plant while the City has not passed a school levy in 40 years! Further, the City will actually own this new nuclear weapons plant while the private developers acquire ownership through a 20-year purchase to lease arrangement. **I believe that City ownership of a nuclear weapons production plant is contrary to the stated purpose of using tax breaks to improve the quality of human life.**

* I believe it makes much more sense for Kansas City to take advantage of wind power that can be harnessed to provide useful manufacturing jobs that generate sustainable, renewable energy, instead of producing something so genocidally destructive. We must solve the problem of global warming and the threat of nuclear war, or we will destroy ourselves and the planet. We need to develop jobs with a future rather than hanging on to dead-end jobs like making nuclear weapons. Kansas City is to wind power as Saudi Arabia is to oil! Energy Technology is the wave of the future! **Create green jobs, not WMDs, for a sustainable Kansas City!**

* I think the present Honeywell Nuclear Weapons Production Plant on Bannister Road should be cleaned up by the federal government so the area can be used for other commercial purposes. I understand it is so highly contaminated with PCBs and volatile organic compounds (mostly industrial solvents) it could be a super fund site. I have heard that a local professor who teaches a class at UMKC on hazardous waste takes his students to the present site for field trips! It will cost hundreds of millions of dollars to clean up (which would produce more jobs) and is located in a flood plain near the Blue River! **City officials should be pushing for needed cleanup and economic development at the old plant instead of pushing for a new nuclear weapons production plant!** I got a phone call the other day from a retired engineer from the current plant, and he said there was a Honeywell plant in Pinellas County, Florida, that was also contaminated, but had been cleaned up and is now run by a non-profit that employs more people than Honeywell ever did at that site. (see article "Honeywell site owner getting plenty of help in cleanup battle") The article I found from the Tampa Bay Business Journal mentions 150. contaminated Honeywell locations in the U.S.

***I am afraid that in this age of terrorist warfare the Kansas City Nuclear Weapons Production Plant may very well become a target for extremists. Also, I think it is premature, to say the least, to build a new half-billion dollar Nuclear Weapons Plant when nuclear disarmament is mandated by international law and is necessary to end this doomsday threat to our planet.** There was a show on PBS the other night about the

Reagan presidency. It said how worried he was that armageddon, the end of the world, was near, and how he and Gorbachev came extremely close in the mid-80s to agreeing on total disarmament of nuclear weapons. I came across an article the other day about four very influential, conservative men who are working at the United Nations on ways to rid the world of nuclear weapons completely: Henry Kissinger, Charles Schultz, two former US secretaries of state, along with former US defense secretary William Perry and for US senator Sam Nunn. (See article "Kissinger on PM's anti-nuclear panel")

I say "No" to Kansas City tax breaks for a new federal nuclear weapons production plant! Instead, make the federal government clean up the old plant!

Sincerely,

Ann Suellentrop M.S.R.N.

Greater Kansas City Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility