

Good Evening

My name is Wayne Mulford, thank you for the opportunity to speak here tonight.

I've worked for Bloom Energy for 5 years as the Solid Fuel cell and Column Manufacturing Manager in Newark Delaware.

In 2001 I settled in North Wilmington after returning to the United States upon my retirement from the US Army after 21 years. All in, I've worked on behalf of the US government for 25 years in various capacities, and I can tell you first hand the need for new types of energy technologies is paramount to our future.

I have 2 sons and 1 daughter. My oldest son currently serves as a policeman for Newcastle County, and my youngest son works for Jet, and has been accepted for the next Homeland Security academy class.

My daughter, 12, attends Tally Middle School and is in their IB and Avid programs. She is a passionate Softball player for, both Claymont and Brandywine Softball. My wife, an OR Nurse works at Al DuPont Children's Hospital. She and I are very active in all of our daughter's schools activities, as well as within our church, at Saint David's. We are active members of the Delaware German Club, where we help organize and run the Oktoberfest each year.

I am a member of Post 10 of the American Legion and Post 475 of the VFW in Newark Delaware, and am very proud to help lead Bloom's support for the veteran community, both internally and externally.

When returning back to the United States I found it hard to find a job here in Delaware as I suspect like many other people during that time. I found that I needed to go back to school and refresh my engineering degree and enrolled in another master's level program. As the economy began to improve, I received 5 different job offers.

I chose Bloom because of their mission statement. Also Bloom was the only company that truly sees the employees as its greatest resource, and veterans were not only welcome, but sought after. I also chose Bloom because of the unique product, I wanted to be part of a company that works to improve our environment and equally important the energy security of the United States.

During my tenure with Bloom I've had the opportunity to build a manufacturing team and as of today 25% of my team are veterans, 2 of which are active in the Delaware National Guard.

To summarize, the national community is important to me, as well as my local Delaware community. My family, much like Bloom, leads by setting an admirable example to others. It is disheartening to see opponents of this permit because they appear to have a political axe to grind, but what they are really doing is attacking me and my hard working colleagues.

Clean air is vital to my family, and vital to our society. Advanced technologies like Bloom's fuel cells have the potential to help secure the US's energy independence. Delaware, the First State, should be proud of this project, a project which serves as a national example of how advanced energy technology can be applied. Upgrading to even more efficient systems with less carbon footprint makes sense. And doing that with systems manufactured right here in Newark, by me, by my co-workers here tonight, that is something we are all proud of. DNREC should be proud of that too. Please approve this permit. Thank you for your time.