

*To the Citizens of Alcott:*

*Many of you have expressed concerns about our town's use of fossil fuels as a primary energy source. I appreciate your feedback. However, I would like to explain my decision to you all, to help you understand my perspective.*

*Fossil fuels like coal and gas are cheap. In these difficult economic times, I think it is important to save Alcott's residents as much money as possible. While solar and wind power are "cleaner" forms of energy, they can be expensive. Adding solar panels to a house can cost \$20,000 - not to mention the cost for the town's larger buildings. Do you have a spare \$20,000? Wind turbines, necessary to capture wind energy, would cost our town \$3 million to build.*

*Currently, Alcott's homes use electricity powered by fossil fuels like coal and oil. In Alcott, monthly electricity bills average \$100 - that is much less than \$20,000 ! And, you can fill your car's gas tank for less than \$75. Speaking of cars, anyone who has shopped for a car lately knows that the average price of an electric car is \$19,000 higher than the average price for a gas-powered car.*

*Additionally, fossil fuels provide jobs for many of Alcott's residents. The local coal refinery employees 450 people, and our gas stations have created jobs for hundreds more. If we stop our use of fossil fuels, all of these citizens will lose the jobs they rely on. Switching to renewable energy sources is a luxury most of us just can't afford.*

*As your mayor, my job is to make decisions that I think will benefit our community and its residents. To keep your bills and taxes low and to protect the jobs of hundreds of our residents, I have chosen to continue Alcott's reliance on fossil fuels. Please feel free to provide further feedback at our next town hall meeting.*

*Sincerely,*

*Mayor Williams*