

The angry reaction of Torrington citizens is the result of the secret deliberations by the mayor and council and their intentional blocking of expected citizen action. This adherence to secrecy and this unexpected change in their position violated the public trust and reflects a disrespect and contempt for citizens who have opposed Bio-Gen hand-in-hand with Torrington officials.

Winchester citizens had a recent similar experience in which the elected officials ignored the public will by refusing to be responsive to the electorate. Strong community reaction is an example of what happens when elected officials do not engage in public dialogue with citizens but instead slam the door in their face.

If you agree that the Bio-Gen facility is not in the best interest of the health or pocketbook of the citizens or if you agree that unresponsive government is a detriment to building a democratic community, then Bio-Gen becomes Winchester's problem as much as Torrington's. We then must take the proper action to make our voice heard on this important public issue.

*Charlene LaVoie is the Community Lawyer.*