

COUGHING OUR WAY TO THE BANK

Speaking from his home today, Dr. Steven Porter, independent candidate for Congress in PA-03, commented on the emergence of Ralph Nader to the Presidential campaign scene and its relationship to the economic and environmental fates of the Third Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

“Nader’s candidacy,” said Porter, “will give the people of our nation—and particularly the people of our congressional district—a chance to hear another voice. It is a voice not often allowed to present itself because of the many ballot access restrictions imposed on non-Democratic and non-Republican candidates, and because the media traditionally has not given equal coverage to so-called ‘third party’ people. That is simply another in the many ways in which Americans are brainwashed to think that the two major parties (both of which are thoroughly owned by special interests) are the only viable alternatives in government.

“In the case of PA-03, the perspective of alternatives is especially important because a tire-burning plant is being proposed to bolster Erie’s sagging economy. In order to make profits, the public is being asked to countenance the emission of 1,505 tons of pollutants a year, pollutants which include dioxins, lead, mercury, carbon monoxide, and a heck of a lot of other carcinogens released to a populous area. Insanity.

“Insanity especially because at the very same location, a non-polluting source of energy can be built to aid the economy and help the environment—a wind farm.

“It would be wonderful if the citizens of PA-03 were to invite Mr. Nader to speak here about the tire plant, a possible Great Lakes Wind Farm, the limiting of ballot access to candidates, and the many other issues which plague our region, our nation, and our world. We don’t have to shower his campaign with money. We don’t have to pledge to vote for him. All we have to do is listen to a voice which presents something other than the same old tired ideas.

“As for me, I am fed up with having my country waste our money on needless wars when we could protect ourselves better by promoting peace. I am tired of seeing our elderly having to choose between medicine and food because the pharmaceutical lobbies are served first. And I am sick of seeing the people of our region or our nation cough their way to the bank because they are being encouraged to burn tires instead of harnessing the wind.”