

A Statement Regarding Article 17 from Deanna Graham, Precinct 16

I am writing in regards to amendment 17, the amendment that would allow for self-serve gas stations in Arlington. Last week we heard from a lawyer representing one gas station owner in town who spoke in favor of the article. This weekend, I spoke to another gas station owner in town to get his opinion. I did not get permission to use his name (I did not think to ask) so I will simply tell you that he is the owner of one family owned and operated gas station in town. He runs the station, employs someone to help him pump gas, and his nephew is the head mechanic, also employing a few people to assist him. I explained the warrant article to him, and asked if this would be a bad thing or a good thing for his family business. He immediately said it would be a bad thing for his business.

I don't know the economics of this, but I can make a few guesses. I imagine a well-capitalized station would be able to make the adjustments necessary to convert to self-serve, but not a single, family run station. It might mean cheaper gas prices in town, but at what cost? I would like Arlington to remain a town where family businesses are valued and supported, so I will be voting no on Article 17.

Thank you,

Deanna Graham, Pct. 16