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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Westminster West
—Article Number:.....42790

[REDACTED]

Notes from editor (not for publication):

[REDACTED]

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

#####BEGIN HED#####

1 Let's not muddy the waters with debate over Town
2 Meeting topics

#####END HED#####

#####BEGIN SUBHED#####

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#####END SUBHED#####

5 TEXT BODY:

#####BEGIN TEXT#####

6 In response to two letters published in the Dec. 10 issue
7 [“Yes, towns can reject petitions for useless and frivolous Town
8 Meeting articles” and “All we are asking is that Town Meetings
9 stick to town business”]:
10 Imagine a Town Meeting, in a parallel universe, where
11 after all the town business has been discussed and articles have
been voted on, the meeting addresses an article that was added

12 to the agenda as a result of a petition signed by 10% of the town's
13 registered voters. Suppose the article in question is "Should the
14 voters of the Town of XYZ declare their support to the
15 International Flat Earth Research Society?"

16 A lively discussion ensues.

17 Not whether there should be a discussion or not, since
18 10% of voters have petitioned for the discussion to take place.
19 But on the merits of the resolution.

20 It would be followed by a raised-hand vote on a
21 nonbinding, symbolic declaration.

22 Supporters of the International Flat Earth Research
23 Society have had a chance to air their point of view, and
24 detractors have had their opportunity to have their say.

25 My question to Erica Walch and Cristine White: Why
26 such intense opposition to what boils down to a harmless
27 freedom-of-speech issue?

28 Town business has already been dealt with at the
29 meeting.

30 This nonbinding and symbolic resolution, placed at the
31 very end of the agenda, would result in only a public statement
32 ("We, the voters of XYZ, declare our support of the International
33 Flat Earth Research Society"), should it be approved by a majority
34 of those present. It would not flatten the Earth.

35 Who gets to decide if a petition is "useless and
36 frivolous"?

37 What are you so afraid of?

#####END TEXT#####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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#####END BIO/COATTAIL#####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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39

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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41

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

#####BEGIN LOGLINE#####

42

#####END LOGLINE#####