



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Office of the Commissioner



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

860-713-2501
www.CTGrown.gov

June 2, 2020

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Greenskies Elmridge Solar Project, Stonington

Dear Executive Director Bachman:

We have reviewed the above cited project, as described in March 27, 2020 correspondence to Stephen Anderson of my staff, with respect to agricultural impacts, and have found that there does not appear to be any material impact to the status of prime farmland.

The project site is currently being used as an active golf course, and has been used as a golf course for over 50 years, so it has not been historically used for agricultural purposes. Further, the developers have committed to work cooperatively with the Department of Agriculture and the University of Connecticut to evaluate and implement a program to encourage native pollinators at the project site, and to install an apiary.

The developers have stated that they will consult with Dr. David Wagner of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, regarding the Elmridge site. Greenskies has stated that, while it is not suitable for the eastern portion of the site, they are willing to install pollinator nesting boxes on the western portion of the site where they would be away from golfers and can be relatively undisturbed. Greenskies has also stated that, in consultation with Dr. Wagner, they would implement a plan to enhance pollinator habitat by using a pollinator/conservation seed mix in both array areas.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either myself or Stephen Anderson of my staff. Steve can be reached at stephen.anderson@ct.gov, or at (860) 713-2592.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan P. Hurlburt'.

Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

Cc: Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Lee Hoffman, Pullman & Comley LLC