



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
*CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL*

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

December 16, 2020

TO: Service List dated December 15, 2020

FROM: Melanie A. Bachman *MAB*  
Executive Director

RE: **PETITION NO. 1425** – Gaylord Mountain Solar Project 2019, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.9-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 360 Gaylord Mountain Road in Hamden, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

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The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of correspondence from Senator Martin M. Looney and Representative Josh Elliot, received December 15, 2020, concerning the above-referenced petition.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 16-50j-40, a copy of the petition is to be submitted to each member of the legislature in whose assembly or senate district the facility is to be located for review.

A copy of the correspondence from Senator Martin M. Looney and Representative Josh Elliot is attached and will become part of the record of this matter in the form of a limited appearance.

MAB/lm

c: Council Members



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**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

December 16, 2020

Senator Martin M. Looney  
11<sup>th</sup> District, President Pro Tempore  
Representative Josh Elliot  
88th General Assembly District  
[Dina.Berlyn@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Dina.Berlyn@cga.ct.gov)

RE: **PETITION NO. 1425** – Gaylord Mountain Solar Project 2019, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.9-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 360 Gaylord Mountain Road in Hamden, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear Senator Looney and Representative Elliot:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence received December 15, 2020 concerning the above-referenced petition. Thank you for taking the time to provide the Council with your comments.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 16-50j-40, a copy of each petition is to be submitted to each member of the legislature in whose assembly or senate district the facility is to be located for review. Before reaching a final decision on a petition, the Council carefully considers all of the facts contained in the record that is developed by the Council, the petitioner, parties and intervenors, to the petition and members of the public who submit written statements to the Council.

This petition will be placed on a future Council Meeting agenda for discussion and decision. Your comments shall become part of the official record in this proceeding in the form of a limited appearance defined under subsection (f) of Connecticut General Statutes §16-50n.

Please note that you can view all of the documents related to this matter on our website at [portal.ct.gov/csc](http://portal.ct.gov/csc) under the “Pending Matters” link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this matter.

Sincerely,

*s/Melanie A. Bachman*

Melanie A. Bachman  
Executive Director

MAB/lm

c: Service list dated December 15, 2020  
Council Members



December 16, 2020

TO: Ms. Melanie A. Bachman, Executive Director  
Connecticut Siting Council

FROM: State Senator Martin M. Looney, 11<sup>th</sup> District, President Pro Tempore  
State Representative Josh Elliot, 88<sup>th</sup> District

Re: Petition # 1425 for a Declaratory Ruling concerning a 1.9-megawatt photovoltaic generation facility at 360 Gaylord Mountain Road in Hamden, CT

Ms. Bachman and Honorable Members of the Siting Council:

We write in opposition to the Distributed Solar Development LLC (DSD) construction of a solar facility at 360 Gaylord Mountain Road in Hamden. While in most circumstances we are strong advocates of clean energy including solar power, we oppose this project because it would create significant environmental harm. While the proposed solar farm would produce clean energy, it would also cause significant damage to the environment in other ways. Clear cutting trees (which provide numerous environmental benefits) in order to build a solar farm seems to us incongruous with the goals of addressing climate change and reducing the state's carbon footprint. Deforestation for the purpose of building a solar farm is a puzzling choice. That choice would adversely affect storm water systems and wildlife not to mention the aesthetics and property values in the area.

The Hamden Tree Commission<sup>1</sup> states that: "We believe that this proposal to clear cut and chip over 12 acres of mature, mesic hardwood forest that is on steep slopes and contains wetlands will have substantial adverse permanent environmental impacts." Not only would the positive environmental effects of this forested area be lost, but according to the Hamden Tree Commission, the decaying wood chips that would be left behind would release 1,714 tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). This proposed project would remove trees which are currently absorbing carbon dioxide and instead leave behind wood chips that would emit carbon dioxide. There has to be a better site for this solar farm than this one which lies within the mill river watershed. We need clean energy and we need forests, We urge you to expand the use of solar energy while also protecting our forests.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/CSC/3\\_Petitions-medialibrary/Petitions\\_MediaLibrary/MediaPetitionNos1421-1430/PE1425/State\\_MunicipalComments/PE1425-20201002-TreeCommission\\_.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/CSC/3_Petitions-medialibrary/Petitions_MediaLibrary/MediaPetitionNos1421-1430/PE1425/State_MunicipalComments/PE1425-20201002-TreeCommission_.pdf)