



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Commissioner



Bryan P. Hurlburt  
Commissioner

860-713-2501  
www.CTGrown.gov

February 19, 2021

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

Re: PETITION NO. 1424 - Southington Solar One, 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 4.725-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 1012 East Street, Southington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection (hereinafter the "project:).

Dear Executive Director Bachman:

As you may recall, on September 14, 2020, the Department of Agriculture sent correspondence to you indicating that the above referenced project had a material impact on the status of prime farmland. Subsequent to that correspondence, the project developers reached out to our agency, and have offered several measures to reduce the impacts from the project on prime farmland. The developers and the landowner, Catholic Cemeteries Association (CCA) have agreed to implement the following on the site:

1. Co-location activities which will include, throughout the project's existence, grazing sheep and an apiculture area on the project site;
2. The developers have committed to work to implement a community garden on the site, through the Town of Southington, if possible, or another organization, and provide public access to it, throughout the project's existence;
3. The landowner, CCA, has agreed to negotiate in good faith to sell the development rights to preserve approximately 60 acres (20 of which are actively farmed at this time) of the Project site, and have applied to the Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program for this purpose; and
4. CCA has agreed to grant the Department of Agriculture a Right of First Offer on the remaining acreage not included in paragraph (3) above, should the land used for the Project be offered for sale, in whole or in part, at any point in the future.

It is the opinion of the department that the measures outlined in this letter (i.e., co-use activities ensuring agriculture remains present on the land, and the permanent protection of approximately 60 acres of farmland and woodland) provide ongoing and permanent benefits to Connecticut prime farmland. Therefore, provided the conditions herein are met, it is our opinion

that there will not be a material impact on prime farmland. 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](mailto:stephen.anderson@ct.gov), or at (860) 713-2592.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan P. Hurlburt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Bryan P. Hurlburt  
Commissioner

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