



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
*CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL*

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**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

September 22, 2023

Christopher Drouin  
[chrismdrouin512@gmail.com](mailto:chrismdrouin512@gmail.com)

RE: **PETITION NO. 1589** – USS Somers Solar, 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 3.0-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 360 Somers Road, Ellington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear Christopher Drouin:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your Request for a Public Hearing, dated September 22, 2023, for the above-referenced petition.

The Request for a Public Hearing will be placed on the next Council meeting agenda, a copy of which will be sent to you. You will be notified of the Council's determination immediately thereafter.

Please contact our office at 860-827-2935 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Bachman  
Executive Director

MAB/IN/dll

c: Service List dated August 24, 2023  
Council Members

**From:** Christopher Drouin <chrismdrouin512@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2023 12:22 PM  
**To:** CSC-DL Siting Council <Siting.Council@ct.gov>  
**Subject:** Petition No. 1589: Public comment and hearing request

Siting Council members,

I am a skydiver at Connecticut Parachutists, Inc., located at Ellington Airport. I am aware of [Petition No. 1589](#), which would incorporate solar panels at the airport.

I would like to request an in-person and virtual public hearing on this petition. Additionally, I would like to submit the following as public comment:

As a skydiver, the installation of solar panels at Ellington Airport would present a serious hazard to my health and life. Having used the field intended for solar panels as an alternate landing area before, I know that this is a perfectly viable and safe area to use in its current status.

Additionally, as a tandem skydiving instructor, the installation of solar panels would present a serious risk to the life and limb of my passengers/students. Many of whom come to Ellington to skydive and support other local businesses (typically restaurants) while they are here.

If I land in a solar field I expect to be injured or killed. Seeking an alternate landing area outside of the airport grounds in order to avoid a solar array would be similarly dangerous as I would have to avoid power lines, trees, buildings, other obstacles, and risk damaging personal property.

The installation of solar panels also poses a risk to any aircraft using Ellington airport as they would lose a huge bail out area in the event of a malfunction.

This proposal is a threat to my life and I do not support it.

Christopher Drouin  
Recreational Skydiver and Tandem Instructor