



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 30, 2024

Dominique Baez
Council President
Hamden Legislative Council
Hamden Government Center
2750 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518
dbaez@hamden.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1627** – LSE Libra LLC (Lodestar Energy) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.5-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated equipment located at 410 Denslow Hill Road, Hamden, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear Dominique Baez:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of the Hamden Legislative Council's correspondence received on May 30, 2024, concerning the above-referenced petition. Thank you for taking the time to provide the Council with the comments.

This petition will be placed on a future Council meeting agenda for discussion and decision.

Before reaching a final decision on any petition, the Council must carefully consider all of the facts contained in the record that is developed by the Council, the petitioner, parties and intervenors to the petition, and consider all of the concerns received from members of the public who submit written statements to the Council.

Copies of your correspondence will be distributed to the service list for the petition and administratively noticed in the record.

Please note that you can view all of the documents related to this proceeding on our website at 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 very important matter.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/RDM/dll

c: Service List, dated April 12, 2024
Council Members



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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Hamden, CT 06518
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Ninth District

**ACTING
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
CLERK**
Hailey Collins

Dear Members of the Connecticut Siting Council,

We are writing to express our opposition to petition #1627 which calls for installation of a solar farm along Denslow Hill Rd and Brook Hill Rd. This solar farm will result in the destruction of 7.8 acres of trees and the habitat of all the wildlife, including pollinators, that live in the forest.

This project provides no benefit to Hamden and will actually severely damage the quality of life of the residents living in this neighborhood. Removal of these trees will result in the loss of trees' critical benefits and services which include: fighting climate change by capturing and sequestering carbon, mitigating flooding and soil erosion, cleaning the air, transporting moisture to prevent and reduce drought conditions. Trees also help clean our rivers and streams by holding soil in place and by reducing runoff into our waterways and provide important habitat for wildlife so the wildlife is not forced into backyards and public spaces. These trees help lower energy costs and provide natural cooling to the surrounding area and provide physical and emotional health benefits that have been well documented.

The petitioner claims that "the solar panels would reduce carbon dioxide levels at a faster rate than the surrounding forest and offset the loss of the trees. The company states that recovering the amount of carbon emitted from the cleared trees would take less than 40 days." These and other self-serving statements ignore all of the other valuable benefits and services listed above that our trees provide for Hamden residents which provide tremendous savings.

The answer to West Haven's problem should not result in Hamden becoming less resilient and environmentally sustainable. West Haven should be planting trees and installing solar on their own roof tops and parking lots not calling for Hamden to remove our trees. As an Environmental Justice community (furthered by their past tree removal practices) they are eligible for state and federal funding not available to Hamden.

We are living in a climate emergency. The report from the GC3 Forests Subgroup presents as a top priority the adoption of a state policy of "no net loss" of forest acreage. This project works against achieving this important top priority.

I support clean energy including solar, but solar belongs in locations such as rooftops and above parking lots. Not in a forest! Please do not move this project forward.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please let me know if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely the Undersigned Councilmembers,

Don Baez *James Anthony*
John Figlar *Sean Caldwell*
Laurie A. Sweet *Katie Kiely*
Jeron Alston *Abdul Osmanu*