

## TOWN OF HAMDEN OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Lauren Garrett  
*Mayor*

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April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Via Email: [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

Connecticut Siting Council  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

**RE: Opposition to 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 Members of the Siting Council:

I am writing in opposition to PETITION NO. 1627 – LSE Libra LLC (Lodestar Energy). The location on Denslow Hill Rd. is inappropriate for several reasons.

To the west of 410 Denslow Hill Rd. is property owned by the State of Connecticut and contains a FEMA flood plain and a dam that is scheduled for repair by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Currently the 10 acres of trees at 410 Denslow Hill Rd. absorb groundwater that would flow to the lower elevation and into the flood plain and dam in need of repairs. Clear-cutting 8 acres of trees will increase the water flowing into an already overloaded dam.

Denslow Hill Rd is a dead-end road and as narrow as 14 feet in several locations. The clear-cutting and construction at 410 Denslow Hill Rd. will cause traffic concerns for public safety, public works, and residents.

The Town of Hamden experienced a tornado in 2018 and then again in 2020 which reduced our tree canopy. The State of Connecticut had to clear trees to create an access roadway to service the dam in properties adjacent. 410 Denslow Hill Rd. could be considered a core forest. The Town of Hamden has lost thousands of trees in the last 6 years and we cannot afford to lose more.

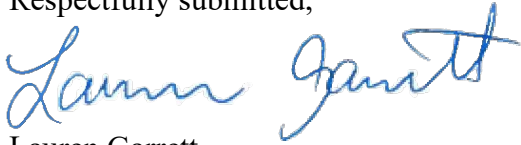
The Town of Hamden is dedicated to environmental sustainability and as such we have been awarded grants for energy efficiency improvements, stormwater management, and construction of the largest municipally constructed rain garden. Hamden received its Silver Certification from SustainableCT this year. We are working to put solar photovoltaic installations on rooftops and parking lots. I support solar

in appropriate places. 410 Denslow Hill Rd. is not an appropriate place.

I am requesting a meeting with the Siting Council and relevant Town of Hamden departments to discuss the details of Petition No. 1627. Please reply with availability as soon as possible.

Your time and consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Garrett  
Mayor, Town of Hamden

CC: Tree Commission Chair Thomas Parlapiano; Town Planner Eugene Livshits; Town Engineer Stephen White; Mayor's Office File