



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 29, 2024

The Honorable Liz Linehan
State Representative – 103th District
Legislative Office Building, Room 411
Hartford, CT 06106
liz.linehan@cga.ct.gov

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 State Representative Linehan:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence dated May 29, 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/laf

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



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE LIZ LINEHAN
ONE HUNDRED THIRD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

MEMBER
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

May 29, 2024
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

via email: siting.council@ct.gov

Re: Opposition to PETITION NO. 1627 - - LSE Libra LLC (Lodestar Energy) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 54-176 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 CT Siting Council,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed 1.5-megawatt solar installation at 410 Denslow Hill Road in Hamden, Connecticut. This project threatens to destroy 7.8 acres of forest, thereby eliminating vital habitats for wildlife, including essential pollinators. Habitat loss is a significant driver of biodiversity decline, which is critical for maintaining healthy ecosystems necessary to support all forms of life. Moreover, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) staff were unable to visit the site due to time constraints, as noted in their letter to the Siting Council. They highlighted that part of the forest to be removed is considered "core" forest. The Hamden Tree Commission has also expressed concerns about the insufficiency of the provided assessment. Therefore, it is imperative to extend the review period to allow DEEP to conduct their own comprehensive assessment.

Additionally, we are currently facing a climate emergency, and the GC3 Forests Subgroup's report prioritizes a state policy of "no net loss" of forest acreage. This solar project contradicts this priority, and according to the CT Siting Council's website, the petitioner must demonstrate that the construction and operation of the proposed facility would not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. While this solar farm would generate clean energy, it would fail to provide the numerous critical benefits that the existing forest offers, such as natural cooling, health benefits, climate change mitigation, flood and soil erosion prevention, air purification, and wildlife habitat. The environmental, health, and financial detriments to Hamden residents would far outweigh any financial benefits to West Haven. Furthermore, this project misapplies the intent of the Non-Residential Solar Renewable Energy Solutions Program, which aims to involve underserved and environmental justice communities in developing renewable energy. The residents of Hamden support solar installations on rooftops, parking lots, and contaminated fields, but placing a solar farm in a forest is inappropriate. I strongly urge the Siting Council to reject this petition to protect the vital services provided by our forests.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

State Representative Liz Linehan