



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Mary Mushinsky
State Representative— 85th District
Legislative Office Building
Room 4012
Hartford, CT 06106
Mary.Mushinsky@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 Mary Mushinsky:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence dated May 10, 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

May 10, 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 would like to register my opposition to the proposed solar installation at 410 Denslow Hill Road in Hamden, Connecticut due to extensive forest removal and failure to utilize developed areas for community solar energy production. As a member of the Energy and Technology Committee, I have backed community solar, canopy solar, re-use of brownfield sites and shared use of transportation corridors. Developers spoke at our public hearings extoling the re-use of abandoned sites to provide power to underserved communities. But that is not what is happening. Developers are pursuing large, undeveloped tracts of forest and farmland, contrary to state goals. This application is one example.

The state is not meeting its goals of preserving farmland. The legislature's Environment Committee, of which I am a member and former chairwoman, is targeting forests for carbon sequestration as a tool to mitigate rising CO2 levels. That goal is threatened by large scale removal of functioning forests, which also protect watersheds and cool the air through respiration. Both myself and an OPM energy analyst are dismayed that the promise of solar production to reduce CO2 emissions is in conflict with legislative goals of preserving local farming and using forests, soils and wetlands to store carbon. Other states and nations avoid these conflicts by preferring rooftops, developed corridors and canopies as solar sites.

Please do not sacrifice two state goals for the goal of expanding community solar. This is not what we intended by passing the community solar legislation. It is a major mistake to allow this conflict.

Sincerely,

Mary Mushinsky

State Representative 85th District/Deputy Speaker