

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Petition No. 1698

LSE Lynx LLC (Lodestar Energy) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-176 and Section 16-50k, for the construction, maintenance and operation of a 4.65-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated equipment located at 140 Nod Road, Simsbury, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Public Hearing (Public Comment Session) held on Thursday, April 23, 2026, beginning at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom.

H e l d   B e f o r e :

JOHN MORISSETTE, Vice Chair

Reporter: Lisa L. Warner, CSR #061

1     A p p e a r a n c e s :

2

      Council Members:

3

      BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI

4

      Designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes,  
      Department of Energy and  
      Environmental Protection

5

6

      QUAT NGUYEN

7

      Designee for Chairman Elect Thomas Wiehl,  
      Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

8

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      CHANCE CARTER

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      DR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS

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      DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.

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      Siting Analyst

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1     A p p e a r a n c e s :   (Cont'd.)

2

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4             (Lodestar Energy):

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25

1 I n d e x: (Cont'd)

2

3 Also present:

4 Sam Valone, Lodestar Energy

5

6 PUBLIC SPEAKERS: PAGE

7 Lora Eklund 12

8 Maxwell Jones 15

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19 Kevin Casey 39

20 Kyle Hennig 42

21 Katlin Dufault 46

22 Mark Scully 47

23 Christian Cajjar 51

24 Susan Masino 53

25

1 (Commenced at 6:30 p.m.)

2 THE VICE CHAIR: This hearing is called  
3 to order this Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 6:30  
4 p.m. My name is John Morissette, Vice Chair of  
5 the Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of  
6 the Council are Khristine Hall, William Syme,  
7 Daniel P. Lynch, Jr., Brian Golembiewski, designee  
8 for Commissioner Katie Dykes of the Department of  
9 Energy and Environmental Protection, Quat Nguyen,  
10 designee for Chairman Thomas Wiehl of the Public  
11 Utilities Regulatory Authority.

12 Members of the staff are Executive  
13 Director Melanie Bachman, Siting Analyst Robert  
14 Mercier and Administrative Support Dakota  
15 LaFountain and Lisa Fontaine.

16 If you haven't done so already, I ask  
17 that everyone please mute their computer audio  
18 and/or telephones now. Thank you.

19 This is a continuation of the public  
20 hearing that began at 2 p.m. this afternoon. A  
21 copy of the prepared agenda is available on the  
22 Council's website, along with the record of this  
23 matter, the public hearing notice, instructions  
24 for public access to this public hearing, and the  
25 Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council

1 Procedures .

2 This hearing is held pursuant to the  
3 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General  
4 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative  
5 Procedure Act upon a petition from LSE Lynx LLC,  
6 also known as Lodestar Energy, for a declaratory  
7 ruling for the construction, maintenance and  
8 operation of a 4.65-megawatt solar photovoltaic  
9 electric generating facility and associated  
10 equipment located at 140 Nod Road in Simsbury,  
11 Connecticut, and the associated electrical  
12 interconnection. This petition was received by  
13 the Council on December 4, 2025.

14 The Council's legal notice of the date  
15 and time of this public hearing was published in  
16 the Hartford Courant on February 11, 2026. Upon  
17 this Council's request, the petitioner erected a  
18 sign in the vicinity of the proposed site so as to  
19 inform the public of the name of the petitioner,  
20 the type of facility, the public hearing date, and  
21 contact information for the Council, including the  
22 website and phone number.

23 As a reminder to all, off-the-record  
24 communication with a member of the Council or a  
25 member of the Council staff upon the merits of

1 this petition is prohibited by law.

2 This public comment session is reserved  
3 for members of the public who signed up to make  
4 brief statements. These limited appearance  
5 statements are not subject to questions from the  
6 parties or the Council, and members of the public  
7 making statements may not ask questions of the  
8 parties or the Council.

9 In accordance with the public hearing  
10 notice and in fairness to everyone who signed up  
11 to speak, these public statements will be limited  
12 to three minutes. Please be advised that written  
13 comments may be submitted by any person within 30  
14 days of this public hearing.

15 I wish to note that parties and  
16 intervenors, including their representatives and  
17 witnesses, are not allowed to participate in the  
18 public comment session. I also wish to note for  
19 those who are here and for the benefit of your  
20 friends and neighbors who are unable to join us  
21 for the public comment session that you or they  
22 may send written statements to the Council within  
23 30 days of the date hereof by mail or by email.

24 Please be advised that any person may  
25 be removed from the public comment session at the

1 discretion of the Council.

2 We ask each person making a limited  
3 appearance statement in this proceeding to confine  
4 his or her statements to the subject matter before  
5 the Council and to avoid unreasonable repetition  
6 so that we may hear all of the concerns you and  
7 your neighbors may have. Please be advised that  
8 the Council cannot answer questions from the  
9 public about the proposal.

10 A verbatim transcript will be made of  
11 this hearing and deposited at the Simsbury Town  
12 Clerk's Office for the convenience of the public.

13 At this time, I request the petitioner  
14 to make a brief presentation to the public  
15 describing the proposed facility. I understand  
16 Sam Valone will be making the presentation.

17 Ms. Valone, good evening.

18 SAM VALONE: Good evening, Mr.  
19 Morissette. I will be making the presentation.  
20 And I believe we have an exhibit to show on  
21 screen. Thank you, Ms. Bachman.

22 All right. Hello, everyone. I'm Sam  
23 Valone, I'm a project developer with Lodestar  
24 Energy, and I'm speaking on behalf of the  
25 petitioner, LSE Lynx LLC. Thank you all for

1 coming tonight.

2 I'm just going to give you a high-level  
3 summary about the project. It's located at 140  
4 Nod Road. The entire property is 119 acres, and  
5 we're using just 18 acres of the total site. We  
6 will not be purchasing the land. We are just  
7 going to be leasing those 18 acres.

8 And as background, the project is part  
9 of the statewide SCEF program or Shared Clean  
10 Energy Facilities program which allows Connecticut  
11 residents who are low to moderate income to apply  
12 for electricity discounts on their energy bills.  
13 In addition to that, it's going to provide over  
14 \$40,000 in tax revenue to the town.

15 Jumping a little bit to the site plan  
16 that's shown on screen here to orient everyone,  
17 the blue panels that you see, those are the solar  
18 panels. It's a fixed-tilt system, so the panels  
19 will not be moving, and they'll be facing south.  
20 We're going to be interconnecting to the  
21 Eversource distribution system that's existing  
22 along Nod Road. So there's 3-phase there that  
23 we'll connect right into. We've already done our  
24 interconnection studies with Eversource, and they  
25 determined we're able to connect to the grid.

1           Now, our main access road is going to  
2 be off of Nod Road towards the southern or the  
3 down side of this image near the clubhouse.  
4 That's also where our point of interconnection  
5 will be. That will be the primary access.

6           And then as you go towards the interior  
7 of the site, our equipment pads will be kind of  
8 nestled within those panels. The equipment pads  
9 have the transformers and the inverters, so  
10 they'll be far away from the property lines.

11           In addition, all the panels will be at  
12 least 50 feet from the property lines, and the  
13 entire solar array will be fenced in.

14           We're also in the process of applying  
15 to Connecticut DEEP for a stormwater permit. So  
16 the three stormwater detention basins that are in  
17 brown on the site plan are all in compliance with  
18 DEEP Stormwater, and we will be applying and  
19 hopefully getting approval very shortly.

20           We've also consulted with DEEP's  
21 Natural Diversity Data Base program, so we're  
22 taking all of the recommendations to protect  
23 different species on site including time-of-year  
24 tree clearing restrictions for protected bats.  
25 We'll have a qualified herpetologist on site

1 during construction. We're also staying 100 feet  
2 out of all of the wetlands to protect all the  
3 animals.

4 The fence that we have around the  
5 property will also have a 6-inch gap under the  
6 bottom which will allow small wildlife to travel  
7 in and out of the solar array.

8 And over the past few months, as we've  
9 been in the Siting Council process, we've also met  
10 with several members of the Town of Simsbury to go  
11 over their questions and concerns. And we've  
12 listened, and we've made some updates to respond  
13 to those comments and concerns including providing  
14 photo simulations. We've added additional  
15 vegetative screening, so trees and shrubs along  
16 Nod Road to help with the visual screening. We've  
17 got a privacy screen along the fence to further  
18 block the view. And we've also removed some  
19 panels from the floodplain. So we will be  
20 providing additional compensatory storage with our  
21 stormwater basins which will improve the  
22 stormwater flow on site.

23 Lastly, I would say we're reintroducing  
24 agriculture to the site. We're going to introduce  
25 native grasses and pollinator seed mixes. So

1 we'll have wildflowers growing all over the site.  
2 And at the end of its useful life, the site will  
3 be fully decommissioned. All the panels, the  
4 equipment pads, poles will be removed, and it will  
5 be secured by a decommissioning bond.

6 So that's a high-level summary. And  
7 again appreciate the time. So thank you very  
8 much.

9 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Valone.  
10 We'll now call on Lora Eklund to make a  
11 public statement followed by Tyler Ellison.

12 Lora Eklund, please.

13 (No response.)

14 THE VICE CHAIR: Lora Eklund?

15 LORA EKLUND: Hi. Good evening.  
16 Again, this is Lora Eklund. I appreciate the time  
17 to make public comment, just that I have concerns  
18 overall about the project itself. You know, I  
19 understand that there's going to be different  
20 shrubs put in, pollinators, and you've taken into  
21 consideration the wildlife, but I think overall  
22 that area has really come a long way since it was  
23 Tower Ridge. A lot of people use the disc golf,  
24 you know, the Talcott Collective. I know my  
25 family lives on Hazen Drive, and we really enjoy

1 that area. And the thought of having a solar  
2 farm, if you will, being put in that area is  
3 really disheartening. It takes away from the  
4 beauty of that area. That's all I have.

5 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Eklund.

6 I'll now call upon Tyler Ellison  
7 followed by Christopher Escobar.

8 Tyler Ellison, please.

9 (No response.)

10 THE VICE CHAIR: Tyler Chase Ellison.

11 (No response.)

12 THE VICE CHAIR: Okay. I'll call upon  
13 Christopher Escobar followed by William Greer.

14 Christopher Escobar. Christopher  
15 Escobar, please.

16 (No response.)

17 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon  
18 William Greer followed by Hunter Kyle.

19 William Greer.

20 (No response.)

21 THE VICE CHAIR: William Greer, please.

22 (No response.)

23 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon  
24 Hunter Kyle followed by Dan Laviolette.

25 Hunter Kyle, please.

1 (No response.)

2 THE VICE CHAIR: Hunter Kyle?

3 (No response.)

4 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon Dan  
5 Lavolette followed by Mike Moyers.

6 Dan Lavolette.

7 (No response.)

8 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon  
9 Mike Moyers followed by Colin Muska.

10 Mike Moyers?

11 (No response.)

12 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon  
13 Colin Muska followed by Christopher Wells.

14 Colin Muska.

15 (No response.)

16 THE VICE CHAIR: Colin Muska, please.

17 (No response.)

18 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon  
19 Christopher Wells followed by Jamie Nedd.

20 Christopher Wells, please.

21 (No response.)

22 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon  
23 Jamie Nedd followed by Michael Orozco.

24 Jamie Nedd, please.

25 (No response.)

1 THE VICE CHAIR: Jamie Nedd.

2 (No response.)

3 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon  
4 Michael Orozco followed by Andrew Chamberlaine.

5 Michael Orozco.

6 (No response.)

7 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon  
8 Andrew Chamberlaine followed by Ben Dwyer.

9 Andrew Chamberlaine.

10 (No response.)

11 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon Ben  
12 Dwyer, please, followed by Elisa O'Gorman.

13 Ben Dwyer. Ben Dwyer, please.

14 (No response.)

15 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon  
16 Elisa O'Gorman followed by Maxwell Jones.

17 Elisa O'Gorman.

18 (No response.)

19 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon  
20 Maxwell Jones followed by Kirt Mayland.

21 Maxwell Jones, please.

22 MAXWELL JONES: Hello. Can you hear  
23 me?

24 THE VICE CHAIR: Yes, I can.

25 MAXWELL JONES: All right. Cool. Wow,

1 rifled through that list fast.

2 THE VICE CHAIR: I can see you too.

3 MAXWELL JONES: Thank you very much for  
4 taking the time to listen to us today. I happen  
5 to live in West Hartford, just over Avon Mountain  
6 about ten minutes away from the proposed site.

7 I have lived in West Hartford for ten  
8 years now and have frequented hikes like the  
9 Heublein Tower, which is regularly recognized as  
10 one of the top hikes in the state. I've brought  
11 many people from out of state there to look at the  
12 beauty that is the Farmington River Valley. And I  
13 think I would just be very disappointed if we were  
14 to then put an artificial man-made structure of  
15 this magnitude right there under such a unique  
16 structure as the Heublein Tower.

17 I'm also very involved in the Tower  
18 Ridge Disc Golf community and would be very  
19 disappointed as well to see all the hard work and  
20 dedication that people have put into that course  
21 kind of go to waste. And that is not to say we  
22 shouldn't invest in solar energy. I think solar  
23 energy is very, very important, it's a very neat  
24 technology, but just please pick a different  
25 place. And really that's my message. Please

1 preserve the beauty. Thank you.

2 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Jones.

3 We'll now call upon Kirt Mayland  
4 followed by Paul Henault.

5 Kirt Mayland, please.

6 KIRT MAYLAND: Thank you very much.  
7 Yeah, just briefly, I also live in the  
8 neighborhood. I live over on Woodford Hills  
9 Drive. And I've been involved in the industry  
10 for, I don't know, 25 years coming from an  
11 environmental law background. I don't represent  
12 Vermont Law and Graduate School on this call, but  
13 I now teach up there climate change law and  
14 renewable energy law. So I'd like to think I know  
15 a little bit about these things.

16 So this is a site, as you know, which  
17 has very little environmental value. The soils  
18 most likely had some pretty significant chemical  
19 use, herbicides and pesticides given its past use  
20 as a golf course. It's got very few trees, very  
21 little habitat. Some of you might know it backs  
22 up literally on the north side to a private gun  
23 club, and on the other side of that you have the  
24 state police gun range. The only residence is  
25 owned by the gun club. To the best of my

1 knowledge, it's got no complaints with this.

2 I'm not sure -- I've spent a lot of  
3 time up at Heublein Tower. I'd like to say  
4 probably more than anyone it's a three to four  
5 time a week exercise for me. And I often take a  
6 look down at the Tower Ridge Clubhouse and the  
7 Collective, and even in leaf-off conditions from  
8 the rocks up there you just simply can't see it.  
9 You have to really bend your neck down through the  
10 trees to even get a glimpse of the parking lot.  
11 So, while I understand some of the disc golf  
12 concerns, it's also my understanding that there's  
13 been overtures by the owner to relocate them on  
14 the vast amount of property he's got left.

15 So I truly think, having done a lot of  
16 these sites on brownfields and landfills and  
17 places like that around the state, including  
18 Massachusetts and Vermont, that this is probably  
19 one of the best spots you could find remaining in  
20 the state for a project like this. Thank you very  
21 much.

22 THE VICE CHAIR: Very good. Thank you.  
23 Thank you for your comments this evening.

24 Well, apparently I went out of order,  
25 so we're going to go back to number 12 which is

1 Nicholas --

2 PAUL HENAULT: I was all ready.

3 THE VICE CHAIR: Don't worry, we'll get  
4 to you.

5 PAUL HENAULT: I'll have to start the  
6 clock again.

7 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. We'll be  
8 right back to you.

9 PAUL HENAULT: Okay.

10 THE VICE CHAIR: We won't forget you.

11 Nicholas Ottalagana. No wonder I  
12 skipped him, I can't pronounce his name. Nicholas  
13 Ottalagana.

14 Nicholas, are you with us this evening?

15 (No response.)

16 THE VICE CHAIR: We'll move on to  
17 Christopher Renaud. Christopher Renaud, please,  
18 followed by Kim Richard.

19 Christopher Renaud?

20 (No response.)

21 THE VICE CHAIR: Kim Richard followed  
22 by Michael Sheppard.

23 Kim Richard?

24 (No response.)

25 THE VICE CHAIR: Kim Richard.

1 (No response.)

2 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now move on to  
3 Michael Sheppard followed by Bretton Slate.

4 Michael Sheppard.

5 (No response.)

6 THE VICE CHAIR: We'll move on.  
7 Bretton Slate followed by Michael Weber-Hottleman.  
8 Bretton Slate, please.

9 (No response.)

10 THE VICE CHAIR: Next is Michael  
11 Weber-Hottleman followed by Lucas Borgstedt.

12 Michael Weber-Hottleman.

13 (No response.)

14 THE VICE CHAIR: Moving on to Lucas  
15 Borgstedt followed by Benjamin Sprecher.

16 LUCAS BORGSTEDT: Hi. I just want to  
17 express my disagreement that this is a good place  
18 for a solar farm. I'm part of the disc golf  
19 community. I go to Tower Ridge once, maybe twice,  
20 a month to play. I don't think it's wise to take  
21 over a recreational site that plenty of people use  
22 on a regular basis and use that space for solar.  
23 I think there are many other, I don't know, I  
24 think that there are other places that a solar  
25 farm can go.

1 I also don't think that it fits in with  
2 the view of that area. I just don't think that a  
3 solar farm -- I think it's going to stick out like  
4 a sore thumb against the natural landscape. So,  
5 firmly opposed to this. Thanks.

6 THE VICE CHAIR: Very good. Thank you.  
7 We'll call upon Benjamin Sprecher  
8 followed by Luke Borroughs.

9 Benjamin Sprecher, please.

10 (No response.)

11 THE VICE CHAIR: Benjamin Sprecher.

12 (No response.)

13 THE VICE CHAIR: Next is Luke Borroughs  
14 followed by Hunter Kyle.

15 Luke Borroughs, please.

16 (No response.)

17 THE VICE CHAIR: Luke Borroughs.

18 (No response.)

19 THE VICE CHAIR: Moving on to Hunter  
20 Kyle followed by David Tolk.

21 Hunter Kyle?

22 (No response.)

23 THE VICE CHAIR: Hunter Kyle, please.

24 (No response.)

25 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon

1 David Tolk.

2 DAVID TOLK: Hello.

3 THE VICE CHAIR: Good evening.

4 DAVID TOLK: In regards to the Nod Road  
5 solar project, I'm speaking on behalf of myself  
6 and my partner as the owners of Tower Ridge Disc  
7 Golf, LLC, located at 140 Nod Road, Weatogue.

8 This proposal directly threatens the  
9 viability of our business. If approved, this  
10 project will not only end our operations, but will  
11 also stifle the significant momentum we have  
12 worked tirelessly to build over the past four  
13 years. We currently are at a strong upward trend  
14 consistently bringing visitors to Simsbury to  
15 enjoy the sport in the shadow of the historic  
16 Heublein Tower.

17 Of course, our course which lies within  
18 the proposed solar field map, is a premiere  
19 destination for this sport. To date, we have  
20 welcomed over 4,300 unique players from across the  
21 country. We've had more than 23,000 rounds  
22 played, more than 46,000 hours spent on this  
23 property playing disc golf. And that is only just  
24 what's on our UDisc account that people sign into.  
25 There's more than that that have never used that

1 account.

2 Tower Ridge is currently ranked the  
3 second overall disc golf course in Connecticut,  
4 maintaining a rating of 4.6 stars out of 5. We  
5 have successfully hosted a couple pro tour events  
6 and continue to outpace the industry standards in  
7 both our course play and shop sales annually.

8 Beyond the business impact, the  
9 installation of solar panels across these 20 acres  
10 would be an unsightly addition to this beautiful  
11 landscape, permanently altering the rolling hills  
12 and the iconic backdrop of the mountain and our  
13 community and wildlife currently enjoyed. We  
14 currently have three or four bears on there. This  
15 week I see turkeys. I see hawks hunting all the  
16 time as I'm maintaining this property.

17 We urge the Council to consider the  
18 economic and the aesthetic loss this project would  
19 represent for the Town of Simsbury and the state  
20 recreational community. That's the basics of what  
21 it is.

22 But, you know, the big thing that I'd  
23 like to ask after hearing about all of that play  
24 and recreational use as a rhetorical question I'd  
25 just like to ask the Council: Is this the best

1 place? Is this the only opportunity that you guys  
2 can put a solar place down? That's kind of really  
3 what I have to say.

4 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Tolk.

5 Okay. I think we're back on track.

6 Paul Henault, good evening.

7 PAUL HENAULT: Good evening. First, I  
8 want to say thank you very much for holding this  
9 public hearing. I think it's very important to  
10 have an opportunity to speak to the Council, so I  
11 do appreciate that.

12 I also wanted to tell you a little bit  
13 about my background. I worked for 40 years for  
14 the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance  
15 Company, a commercial engineering and insurance  
16 company in Hartford. I'm sure a lot of you have  
17 heard of it. In those 40 years, I spent most of  
18 my career working in the energy field with respect  
19 to mechanical, electrical pressure and chemical  
20 equipment. So I know a little bit about solar and  
21 wind, having taught it, the exposures for probably  
22 the last ten years of my career, my 40-year career  
23 at Hartford Steam Boiler.

24 And I am not near the location. I  
25 don't live near it, I'm on the other side of

1 Simsbury almost on the Granby line, but I do have  
2 some concerns about it that I expressed in my  
3 letter of January 13th, and I'll try not to recap  
4 those given my three minutes.

5 But there's environmental, economic and  
6 social concerns with this property. The economics  
7 just don't work with respect to only \$40,000 going  
8 to the town which will go down as its personal  
9 property, so it will always go down with each  
10 assessment in each year.

11 The economics it will provide for the  
12 community and for Eversource is minuscule with  
13 respect to what is needed in the state.

14 It also, from a social standpoint, it  
15 sits -- it's a wildlife corridor. It also sits on  
16 the other side of the Farmington River, which is a  
17 federally recognized scenic waterway.

18 And I also believe that sites like this  
19 should either be at brownfields, they should be on  
20 commercial buildings or in parking lots or they  
21 could be on residential, but they don't need to go  
22 in an area like Nod Road. If you haven't had a  
23 chance to run by Nod Road, I would suggest you do  
24 it, and you would see it is mostly a scenic road.  
25 I did note, as the speaker said, the gun range is

1 there for the state police, but that's only one  
2 very small aspect of it.

3 Also, providing fencing around this  
4 will hurt the wildlife as it cuts off all wildlife  
5 that goes in through there. And I know the  
6 Council, using the last couple of seconds I have,  
7 one of the Council's laws is to take into  
8 consideration the environmental and ecological  
9 state of these sites and what damage they can do.

10 So I would ask you, please don't let  
11 this developer be the hammer because, as you know,  
12 Maslow's Law, when you're a hammer and that's the  
13 only tool you have, everything is a nail. So I  
14 would just ask the Siting Council not to allow  
15 that. Please reject this. They can move to other  
16 sites. There are plenty of sites that are  
17 available. And I'll wrap it up there. I've gone  
18 over my three minutes.

19 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr.  
20 Henault, and thanks for your comments this  
21 evening.

22 We'll now call upon David Mobley  
23 followed by Steven Puzzo.

24 David Mobley, please.

25 DAVID MOBLEY: Yes. Thank you so much.

1 THE VICE CHAIR: Good evening.

2 DAVID MOBLEY: Good evening. Thank  
3 you, everybody, for listening to us residents here  
4 in Simsbury. I prepared a few words, and I'd like  
5 to read them to you aloud. My name is David  
6 Mobley. My family has lived in Simsbury for over  
7 30 years. And I'm here to speak in opposition to  
8 the proposed solar project at Nod Road.

9 Now, I want to be clear, I support  
10 renewable energy, but where we put these projects  
11 matters. The proposed solar site isn't vacant  
12 land. It's home to an active, well used  
13 recreational space and a local business that  
14 brings visitors and revenue into this town, Tower  
15 Ridge Disc Golf.

16 Disc golf is one of the fastest growing  
17 sports in the country. It's accessible,  
18 affordable and can be played by people of all  
19 ages. Tower Ridge is currently ranked as the  
20 second best disc golf course in Connecticut. It  
21 also provides a smaller putt-putt course for kids  
22 and families to play who may be new to the sport.  
23 The staff run leagues, tournaments and even  
24 professional events that bring people into our  
25 community from across the country.

1           Once something like this is gone, it is  
2 not easily replaced. This proposal would take up  
3 such a large portion of the course that it would  
4 effectively eliminate it. So we're not preserving  
5 open land. We're removing something the community  
6 already depends on.

7           And the impact goes beyond the course  
8 itself. This site sits in the Farmington River  
9 Valley, an area where people come for its natural  
10 beauty. From the top of the Heublein Tower, one  
11 of the most iconic viewpoints in Connecticut, this  
12 project would be visible and would permanently  
13 alter that landscape forever.

14           There are better options out there. We  
15 can expand solar over existing parking areas with  
16 covered canopies or prioritize rooftops and  
17 commercial zones and previously developed land  
18 spaces that don't require sacrificing open space.  
19 Wildlife fencing would be terrible for the current  
20 ecological state of the area and the wildlife  
21 surrounding it.

22           Even Governor Lamont has said that  
23 Connecticut needs to do a better job balancing  
24 renewable energy with preserving our landscapes.  
25 This is exactly that kind of case. Once this

1 space and its view is changed, it's permanent.  
2 And it's critical that we speak now. We must  
3 reject this proposal. Clean energy shouldn't come  
4 at the cost of the very landscapes and local  
5 businesses that we are trying to protect in  
6 Simsbury. Thank you.

7 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Mobley.  
8 I'll now call upon Steven Puzzo  
9 followed by Mark Leblanc.

10 Steven Puzzo.

11 STEVEN PUZZO: Hi, everybody. My name  
12 is Steven. I'll just start with I live in West  
13 Hartford. I've got four kids. I'm going to be  
14 very similar to David here. I support renewable  
15 energy in the appropriate locations, and this  
16 proposal conflicts with an established heavily  
17 used recreational area that serves families,  
18 including my own.

19 The proposed solar installation would  
20 be constructed on the fairways of Tower Ridge. It  
21 would destroy the course. And I regularly use the  
22 course with my four kids. It's one of the few  
23 accessible outdoor activities where families can  
24 engage across all ages and skill levels. It's not  
25 abandoned. It's not unused space. It's actively

1 maintained. It's a recreational resource. And  
2 replacing a portion of this course with an  
3 industrial solar infrastructure would destroy it.

4           You know, disc golf is directly  
5 integrated with the Talcott Mountain Collective.  
6 That's a community-oriented venue intentionally  
7 designed as a welcoming, inclusive space for  
8 families and individuals. The venue provides  
9 outdoor recreation, live music, food trucks and  
10 open space designed for social interaction and  
11 community gathering.

12           Importantly, the Collective and the  
13 disc golf course were developed together as a  
14 revitalization of the old golf course for a public  
15 family accessible destination. The proposal risks  
16 undermining that investment and the broader  
17 community benefits it provides, particularly for  
18 families like mine who rely on it as that safe and  
19 open space for the kids to run around.

20           It also has the Talcott Mountain State  
21 Park with a trail leading to Heublein Tower, one  
22 of the most iconic views. I'd just like to say  
23 that saying that you can't see the course from  
24 that area is ridiculous. You can definitely see  
25 it. You see it all the time, especially from up

1 in the tower. And, you know, countless families  
2 are up there every single year. The panoramic  
3 views are amazing, and the views from Tower Ridge  
4 and the Collective during the fall are magical.

5 You know, for my family and many  
6 others, the area is not just open land; it's a  
7 place where children play, families gather and  
8 people connect with nature. The combination of  
9 the disc golf course, the Talcott Mountain  
10 Collective and access to Heublein Tower are unique  
11 and irreplaceable.

12 So I respectfully urge the Council to  
13 deny the petition or require relocation of the  
14 project to a more appropriate site. And according  
15 to the public record, it seems that the property  
16 owners are destroying this community asset to  
17 repay tax debt they've accumulated. And the  
18 community should not be punished for their lack of  
19 responsibility. Thank you.

20 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Puzzo.

21 I'll now call upon Mark Leblanc  
22 followed by Alicia and Sean Pare.

23 Mark Leblanc, please.

24 (No response.)

25 THE VICE CHAIR: Mark Leblanc?

1 (No response.)

2 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon  
3 Alicia and Sean Pare followed by Brian Nardi.  
4 Alicia and Sean Pare.

5 ALICIA PARE: Hi. Good evening. We  
6 actually live at 160 Nod Road, so we're the  
7 property that is directly next to where the solar  
8 farm is going to be installed. I 100 percent  
9 agree with what everyone is saying about  
10 destroying the nature. I have some additional  
11 safety concerns.

12 So I did listen in to the meeting this  
13 afternoon. And it sounds like the fire department  
14 isn't on board with everything that's going  
15 forward so far. So the solar fires are a big  
16 concern for me, especially because East Windsor  
17 has had two in the past year in terms of solar  
18 fires. And where this farm is going to be, it's  
19 going to be surrounded by trees and mountains.  
20 And I understand when they have these fires they  
21 shut it off and sort of let it burn. And that's  
22 not to say that everything around it could catch  
23 fire. And our home is very close to where that  
24 area is going to be, so that's a major concern for  
25 me.

1           And then I also was listening in that  
2 they're going to be putting a couple of fences  
3 around, one being inclusive of an electric fence  
4 for bears. That's a big concern because Talcott  
5 Collective where a lot of families come with their  
6 kids -- and the great thing about that is there's  
7 open space for kids to run around -- and what's  
8 not to say that kids run into that open area where  
9 electric fences are going to be. And that's a  
10 little disturbing thinking about young children  
11 being close to these types of things.

12           Another issue that I have or a concern,  
13 I should say, is we get all of our house water  
14 from our well. I haven't done extensive research  
15 into it, but I have seen that there have been a  
16 couple solar farms that have runoff water into  
17 wells and adjoining rivers. And with Farmington  
18 River being right there, water contamination is a  
19 concern if any of these solar panels were to crack  
20 or break or catch fire what that contamination is  
21 going to do to the water that we use in this area.

22           And then my last concern that I have  
23 regards property value. So we purchased our home  
24 about two and a half years ago. And there have  
25 been a couple studies discussing property value

1 being near solar farms, Virginia Tech being one of  
2 them, that showed property values within a half a  
3 mile dropped 7.2 percent and within 3 miles 4.8  
4 percent lose their property value. And there are  
5 several studies out there that show similar  
6 things. So my concern is the drop that we are  
7 going to see in our property value.

8 SEAN PARE: Sean here as well. I just  
9 really wanted to represent our concern with our  
10 property value on top of the safety concerns, but  
11 also want to note that our neighbor is also on the  
12 line who also borders the property. He sent an  
13 email to sign up but kicked back, and he's on  
14 right now. I'd like for him to also represent a  
15 voice.

16 ALICIA PARE: So yeah, we just wanted  
17 to express some safety concerns in addition to all  
18 of the nature concerns with displacing animals and  
19 everything. So thank you so much for having this  
20 tonight.

21 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you for coming  
22 out and speaking. Thank you.

23 We'll now call upon Brian Nardi  
24 followed by Christine Graesser.

25 Brian Nardi, please.

1 (No response.)

2 THE VICE CHAIR: Brian Nardi?

3 (No response.)

4 THE VICE CHAIR: We'll move on to

5 Christine Graesser followed by Mary Hogue.

6 Christine Graesser?

7 (No response.)

8 THE VICE CHAIR: Christine Graesser.

9 (No response.)

10 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now turn to Mary

11 Hogue followed by Sherry Boyd.

12 Mary Hogue, please.

13 (No response.)

14 THE VICE CHAIR: Mary Hogue.

15 (No response.)

16 THE VICE CHAIR: Moving on, Sherry Boyd

17 followed by Craig Smolin.

18 Sherry Boyd, please. Hi Sherry.

19 SHERRY BOYD: Good evening.

20 THE VICE CHAIR: Good evening.

21 SHERRY BOYD: Hi. Can you hear me?

22 THE VICE CHAIR: I can. Thank you.

23 SHERRY BOYD: Okay. Wonderful. It

24 seems like some people might be having technical

25 difficulties, so I wasn't sure. They usually

1 follow me.

2 My name is Sherry Boyd, and I'm the  
3 founder of Disc Golf Zen whose mission is to grow  
4 the disc golf community inclusively. We have 13  
5 tournaments a year, 13 league events a year, and  
6 about a dozen clinics to introduce new people to  
7 the sport. Many aspects of growing the sport of  
8 disc golf have to do with humans, but you can't  
9 introduce a sport to humans without the proper  
10 courses, so courses are absolutely critical.  
11 Tower Ridge is truly unique in that it offers the  
12 opportunity to play for every level of disc  
13 golfer. The community needs Tower Ridge.

14 Now on a personal note, I also am a  
15 disc golfer, obviously, and my husband and I have  
16 played close to 250 courses in the last five  
17 years. And Tower Ridge remains in our top ten  
18 courses. We go out there because we're nature  
19 lovers, we love spending the time out there.  
20 There are so many birds, and like someone already  
21 said, the turkeys. We were hoping to see the  
22 bears when we were there a few days ago. And I  
23 just think that there has to be a better place to  
24 put this solar structure. I don't think you  
25 should be undoing a wonderful recreational

1 opportunity in our state for solar. And thank you  
2 very much for the opportunity. I appreciate it.

3 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Boyd.

4 Now calling upon Craig Smolin followed  
5 by Kevin Casey.

6 CRAIG SMOLIN: Good evening.

7 THE VICE CHAIR: Good evening.

8 CRAIG SMOLIN: Sorry, I have a prepared  
9 statement. My name is Craig Smolin. I've lived  
10 in Connecticut since 1999. And I work  
11 professionally for Triton Environmental in the  
12 environmental consulting industry. I've also been  
13 an active member of the state's disc golf  
14 community since 2004 when I began playing at  
15 Wickham Park.

16 I'm here to express my opposition to  
17 the solar development proposed by Lodestar Energy  
18 at Tower Ridge Disc Golf Course. This proposal  
19 would displace a long-standing privately operated  
20 recreational facility that serves not just the  
21 greater Hartford region but the entire State of  
22 Connecticut as well as New England. Tower Ridge  
23 is not just open space. It is an established  
24 small business that provides affordable outdoor  
25 recreation, supports local events, and contributes

1 to the regional economy. Replacing it with a  
2 utility-scale solar installation would permanently  
3 eliminate that use.

4 Public reporting and material submitted  
5 to the Connecticut Department of Energy and  
6 Environmental Protection indicates that projects  
7 of this scale require significant land clearing,  
8 grading and long-term site alteration. While  
9 solar energy is an important component of  
10 Connecticut's clean energy goals, not all  
11 locations are appropriate. Siting a large solar  
12 array on actively used recreational land,  
13 particularly one integrated into a broader  
14 landscape that includes Heublein Tower and the  
15 surrounding Talcott Mountain area, raises  
16 legitimate concerns about land use compatibility,  
17 habitat disturbance, visual impacts and a  
18 cumulative loss of accessible open space.

19 This is ultimately a question of  
20 balance. Connecticut's energy transition should  
21 prioritize previously disturbed or underutilized  
22 sites such as brownfields, landfills and  
23 commercial rooftops before converting valued  
24 recreational and natural areas to an industrial  
25 use. That principle is consistent with DEEP

1 guidance and widely accepted smart growth  
2 practices.

3 I want to be clear. I have 25 to 30  
4 years of environmental consulting experience, and  
5 I intend to pursue a master's degree in energy and  
6 environmental management, so I am not opposed to  
7 solar energy. It is to this location. As someone  
8 who works in environmental consulting, I strongly  
9 support responsible, renewable development.  
10 However, this proposal places disproportionate  
11 impacts on small business, a dedicated user  
12 community, and a unique recreational space. I  
13 respectfully urge the Council to deny this  
14 application as proposed and require that  
15 alternative sites be considered, sites that do not  
16 displace an existing use, do not require extensive  
17 alteration of valued landscape and better align  
18 with Connecticut's environmental land use  
19 priorities. Thank you very much for your  
20 consideration.

21 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you for your  
22 comments this evening.

23 I'll now call upon Kevin Casey followed  
24 by Phillip Prosser.

25 Kevin Casey, good evening. Kevin?

1 KEVIN CASEY: Yes. Good evening.  
2 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name  
3 is Kevin Casey, and I'm speaking on behalf of the  
4 landowner of the property at 140 Nod Road.

5 I'd like to begin by clarifying some  
6 recent public comments regarding the disc golf  
7 operation currently on the property. Tower Ridge  
8 Disc Golf operates on a month-to-month arrangement  
9 and does not have a long-term lease. As a result,  
10 their continued use of the property isn't  
11 guaranteed over the long term regardless of the  
12 outcome of this proceeding. That said, we value  
13 their presence on the property, and we've made it  
14 clear our willingness to allow them to continue  
15 operating.

16 The proposed solar project would occupy  
17 only a small portion of the overall site, I think  
18 about 19 acres of the 119 acre site, leaving, you  
19 know, the vast majority of the acreage available.  
20 We've offered to relocate the disc golf course  
21 somewhere within the remaining usable acreage so  
22 they can continue operations if they choose to  
23 remain as a tenant and we choose to remain as a  
24 landlord.

25 More broadly though, I want to

1 highlight several important aspects of this  
2 project. The project has been thoughtfully  
3 designed to fit within the site while maintaining  
4 compatibility with the surrounding uses. It  
5 doesn't create a burden on local schools or  
6 municipal services. And once it's operational, it  
7 will generate minimal traffic and, you know, a  
8 limited demand on town resources. The developers  
9 included some responsible stormwater management.  
10 And it's always going to be in coordination with  
11 state regulatory agencies.

12 One thing that I'd like to say is, in  
13 my understanding, we looked at this as a possible  
14 use of the property, and it was our understanding  
15 that usually the primary objections to, raised by  
16 people to solar developments have to do with  
17 replacing farmland or forested areas. When the  
18 golf course was operating as a golf course, there  
19 was 350,000 gallons a day, on average, taken out  
20 of the Farmington River. As it was said earlier,  
21 there was pesticides and herbicides. A degraded  
22 closed golf course would seem to be a great place,  
23 especially when only a fraction of it is being  
24 used for this project.

25 So, we insisted that there be a

1 comprehensive decommissioning plan in place along  
2 with the financial assurances to make sure that  
3 happens and that the site would be fully restored  
4 at the end of the project's life. So we  
5 respectfully ask the Council to consider both the  
6 flexibility that we've offered regarding the  
7 existing disc golf use and the overall public  
8 benefits that this project would bring. Thank  
9 you.

10 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Casey.  
11 I'll now call upon Phillip Prosser  
12 followed by Kyle Hennig.

13 Phillip Prosser?

14 (No response.)

15 THE VICE CHAIR: We'll move on. Kyle  
16 Hennig followed by Quinn Becotte.

17 Kyle Hennig?

18 KYLE HENNIG: Yeah, speaking. Can you  
19 hear me?

20 THE VICE CHAIR: Yes, I can. Good  
21 evening.

22 KYLE HENNIG: Good evening. First of  
23 all, I'd just like to thank the Chairman and  
24 Council members for hosting this valuable public  
25 forum for us. I'm speaking tonight on behalf of

1 my wife, Allie Kraushaar, and my stepdaughter and  
2 my daughter because we are all vehemently opposed  
3 to this proposition.

4 I am also a disc golfer, which in this  
5 particular case kind of falls way down the list of  
6 the important priorities that I see on this  
7 property, the number one thing being the scenic  
8 value. I've been a Simsbury, Granby resident for  
9 my entire life and have always valued the drive  
10 down Nod Road for the river and for really like  
11 the lack of development. Also, you know, going up  
12 to the Heublein Tower a number of times, you can  
13 certainly see the expanse of the property, and to  
14 have such a structure pop up would be such a  
15 drawback. I don't even think words really do it  
16 justice.

17 I've heard a few assertions by various  
18 people here that I couldn't disagree with more  
19 including that somehow there is like a lack of  
20 wildlife in the area and the fencing and the  
21 panels wouldn't affect the vast array of wildlife  
22 that I've seen with my own eyes. You know, the  
23 list is extensive. So that didn't sit well.

24 Additionally, I heard a bit about the  
25 chemicals being pumped into the land and what a

1 great spot for a solar farm on an old deteriorated  
2 golf course. Well, I think that Tower Ridge has  
3 been open for going on five years, and so that  
4 chemical degradation has ceased for the better  
5 part of five years, at least, and ongoing. So I  
6 think that the local wildlife and flora is being  
7 revitalized in the area. I don't see that as like  
8 some sort of like wasteland. I really see it as  
9 an up-and-coming environmental area. So that's  
10 thing number one.

11 Also, you know, the proposition that  
12 the disc golf course would be -- you know, the  
13 development would be limited to 18 acres and that  
14 would somehow not affect the disc golf course is  
15 somewhat akin to comparing, like saying a regular  
16 golf course, you know, shrunk down to a miniature  
17 golf course would be the same thing. It's, you  
18 know, probably spoken from a point of view from  
19 someone who doesn't really understand the sport or  
20 understand the true value to the community which,  
21 you know, I don't find fault in. It's just a lack  
22 of information. So I would like to clarify that.

23 So, you know, really starting with --  
24 (3 MINUTE CUTOFF)

25 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Hennig.

1 Unfortunately, you ran out of time.

2 We'll now continue with Quinn Becotte.

3 Quinn Becotte?

4 (No response.)

5 THE VICE CHAIR: We'll now move on to

6 Chris Sherer followed by Caitlin Boyd.

7 Chris Sherer, please.

8 (No response.)

9 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon

10 Caitlin Boyd followed by Benjamin Cianciola.

11 Caitlin Boyd, please.

12 (No response.)

13 THE VICE CHAIR: Caitlin Boyd?

14 (No response.)

15 THE VICE CHAIR: We'll continue on.

16 Benjamin Cianciola.

17 (No response.)

18 THE VICE CHAIR: We'll move on. Daniel

19 Cotton followed by Jeremy Dube.

20 Daniel Cotton, please.

21 (No response.)

22 THE VICE CHAIR: Daniel Cotton.

23 (No response.)

24 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: I'll now call upon

25 Jeremy Dube followed by Katlin Dufault.

1           Jeremy Dube.

2           (No response.)

3           THE VICE CHAIR:   Jeremy Dube.

4           (No response.)

5           THE VICE CHAIR:   I'll now call upon  
6   Katlin Dufault followed by Mark Scully.

7           KATLIN DUFAULT:   Hello?

8           THE VICE CHAIR:   Just one moment.  
9   Katlin Dufault, please.

10          Good evening Katlin.

11          KATLIN DUFAULT:   Hello?

12          THE VICE CHAIR:   Yes.

13          KATLIN DUFAULT:   Thank you for your  
14   time.   Good evening.   I'm here to express my  
15   opposition to the proposed solar farm on Nod Hill  
16   Road.

17                 While I support renewable energy and  
18   recognize its importance for our future, I believe  
19   this particular project is not the right fit for  
20   this location.   Nod Hill Road is valued for its  
21   beauty, rural character and ecological  
22   significance.   Developing a large-scale solar  
23   installation here would permanently alter the  
24   landscape, disrupt local wildlife habitats and  
25   change the character of the community that

1 resides -- or, sorry, that residents have worked  
2 hard to preserve.

3           Additionally, projects like this can  
4 raise concerns, as you've heard, about property  
5 values and the long-term impact on nearby homes.  
6 There are alternative locations such as already  
7 developed or industrial areas where solar  
8 infrastructure could be implemented with far less  
9 impact on residents and the environment.  
10 Supporting clean energy shouldn't mean sacrificing  
11 the spaces that make our community unique. I urge  
12 decision-makers to reconsider this proposal and  
13 explore more appropriate sites.

14           I'm not local to this site. I live in  
15 Danielson, Connecticut. I travel about an hour  
16 and 40 minutes every time I come to visit. And  
17 when I do, I like to spend my time at the disc  
18 golf course and at the Talcott Mountain Reserve.  
19 And I just think it would be a shame to throw away  
20 such local beauty. Thank you for your time.

21           THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. I'll now  
22 call upon Mark Scully followed by Christian Cajar.

23           Mark Scully, please. Good evening.

24           MARK SCULLY: Good evening. Thank you  
25 very much for this opportunity to speak and for

1 the very detailed and deliberative hearing this  
2 afternoon.

3 My name is Mark Scully. I'm a lifelong  
4 resident of Simsbury, Connecticut and avid disc  
5 golfer. I'd like to voice my support for this  
6 petition. And my testimony is prompted, in part,  
7 by my understanding of state and local climate  
8 targets. Connecticut Public Act 25-125, which  
9 passed last year, sets a target of net zero  
10 greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 with additional  
11 interim targets. The Simsbury Sustainability  
12 Plan, which passed in 2024, sets a target of  
13 producing half of our electricity from solar by  
14 2030 and 100 percent by 2040. We're currently at  
15 26 percent including Tobacco Valley Solar, the  
16 26.4 megawatt array in the north of town. In  
17 order to meet these targets, we will need more  
18 solar in Connecticut in my town and including on  
19 rooftops, parking lots and suitable land. We in  
20 Simsbury must do our part.

21 When this project is complete, it will  
22 yield multiple benefits, including it will  
23 generate clean electricity in support of the local  
24 grid. It will help the town and state meet their  
25 climate goals. It will provide modest tax revenue

1 for the Town of Simsbury without adding to public  
2 services. It will generate revenue to the  
3 property owner in support of their other  
4 businesses including Talcott Mountain Collective  
5 and the Healing Meals. It will assist low and  
6 moderate income state residents with their energy  
7 bills by participating in the Shared Clean Energy  
8 Facilities Program.

9 As a lifelong Simsbury resident, I  
10 don't want to see solar everywhere in town. There  
11 are some sites where that should remain off  
12 limits, but in my opinion, this is not one of  
13 those sites. The proposed solar project will have  
14 minimal impact on the natural beauty of its  
15 surroundings. While it will be visible from  
16 Heublein Tower, it will be a part of a large  
17 landscape.

18 And I want to point out to many  
19 viewers, including myself, looking down on some  
20 solar panels is not a negative but a sign that my  
21 community supports sustainable living.

22 It's worth pointing out this project  
23 includes a decommissioning bond so at the end of  
24 its useful life the land could be reclaimed for  
25 other purposes. This, of course, is not the case

1 if this land gets lost to housing.

2 In my view, we should not, without good  
3 reason, stand in the way of a property owner  
4 trying to put their land to use as they see fit.  
5 The fact that the landowner is requesting this  
6 project suggests they do not feel it will diminish  
7 the use of their land. In fact, they've gone to  
8 considerable effort to work with a reputable solar  
9 installer to design a project that enables the  
10 other tenant to continue to operate. And as the  
11 owner mentioned before, there's plenty of land  
12 there. It's a beautiful disc golf course. I play  
13 it frequently. And there's plenty of room for  
14 them to relocate.

15 Connecticut is in the midst of a  
16 transition from a fossil fuel based economy to one  
17 powered by clean, renewable energy. Towns,  
18 residents and businesses must all do their part to  
19 accomplish this transition. Simsbury can do its  
20 part by siting its fair share of solar powered  
21 generation in town. Solar is one of the most  
22 powerful clean energy tools we have, and we can  
23 help the transition to clean energy by supporting  
24 projects like this one. Thank you.

25 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Scully.

1                   We'll now call upon Christian Cajar  
2 followed by Helen Peterson.

3                   Christian, good evening.

4                   CHRISTIAN CAJAR: Hi. Yeah, that's me.  
5 This is my work login here, so that's why it's  
6 showing up as not my name. But hi. I want to  
7 thank everybody. I want to thank everybody for  
8 putting this on and giving people a chance.

9                   I just want to join the rest of the  
10 community members present here tonight being  
11 opposed to the solar array being discussed. I'm a  
12 local avid amateur disc golfer. And one thing  
13 that I feel needs to be expressed is how much of a  
14 true destination this course is. Not only is it  
15 beautiful and not only does it support habitat and  
16 wildlife and just natural beauty, an array would  
17 detract from that, and I think that's a point that  
18 can't be underemphasized.

19                   So, you know, no other complex in the  
20 area provides such a complete experience. People  
21 travel from far and wide, not just enthusiasts,  
22 amateurs, athletes and traveling pros but also  
23 families. The last time I was there at the pro  
24 shop this past weekend, as I was shopping, the  
25 door may as well have been a revolving door of

1 regulars, people traveling from far and wide, as  
2 well as locals and families who were just at the  
3 establishment next door and wanted to give  
4 throwing frisbees a try. It was really a  
5 wonderful sight to see, especially knowing that  
6 this was coming up.

7           So losing this, asking it to be, you  
8 know, reconfigured or moved, that shows maybe --  
9 there's got to be other options for the array as  
10 far as location is concerned because losing the  
11 course here not just impacts disc golfers, it also  
12 impacts families. And you're not finding anything  
13 similar to what Tower Ridge provides anywhere in  
14 the state. You're not moving them to a different  
15 city. You're moving all the people that want to  
16 enjoy that to another state.

17           So, yeah, I'm in opposition, and yeah,  
18 growth requires support from locals. That's what  
19 I am. That's what we all are. And the growth of  
20 the sport, the growth and the viability of this,  
21 yeah, I think it's worth investing in. Thank you.

22           THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you  
23 for coming out.

24           We'll now call upon Helen Peterson  
25 followed by Susan Masino.

1 Helen Peterson, please.

2 (No response.)

3 THE VICE CHAIR: Helen Peterson.

4 (No response.)

5 THE VICE CHAIR: I'll now call upon  
6 Susan Masino. Susan?

7 SUSAN MASINO: Hi. Good evening.

8 THE VICE CHAIR: Good evening.

9 SUSAN MASINO: I did hear from Helen  
10 Peterson, and I think she wasn't able to join.  
11 She's going to send in comments. She is opposed  
12 to this project. I don't have any more detailed  
13 information about why she's opposed to it.

14 I'm also opposed to it for two reasons:  
15 Number one, I have a Ph.D. in biology, and I'm a  
16 professor at Trinity College, and this is at the  
17 base of a trap rock ridge. And trap rock ridges,  
18 there's a big report, are one of 13 imperiled  
19 habitats in Connecticut. There's a lot of special  
20 things about trap rock ridges and this site is  
21 basically in the way the water is flowing off of  
22 the trap rock ridge and into the federally  
23 designated wild and scenic river. So that's one  
24 of the major kind of environmental wildlife  
25 special habitat concerns.

1 I'm personally a customer of the  
2 Talcott Collective, I've been on this site, I go  
3 up to Heublein Towers, so I understand the  
4 recreational, social, economic issues associated  
5 with this site. And I think that the entire kind  
6 of constellation of the businesses and everything  
7 will be -- is on a really upward trend and will be  
8 more successful if we maintain the integrity of  
9 the site.

10 And the third thing that I wanted to  
11 bring up is that I'm president of the Simsbury  
12 Grange. And we have a lot of music events at the  
13 grange and farming events and a lot of community  
14 grass roots kind of events, and people come from  
15 all over. And I can tell you I'm hearing from  
16 people who are musicians who are from different  
17 towns, they are begging me, I'm not in charge of  
18 this decision, but how much they love this, how  
19 much they love coming to see the beauty, the  
20 music, all of these things, and they can't  
21 understand if we are -- we need a more holistic  
22 plan going forward. We're just kind of like  
23 chasing our tails in terms of energy and thinking  
24 that putting these kind of industrial things  
25 everywhere is somehow going to save us. We need

1 to rethink what we're doing, waste not, want not,  
2 make strategic decisions about what we're doing  
3 where and why.

4 And I'm also at the Simsbury Library  
5 tonight. There are many people here for a  
6 historic film about Eastern white pines. I had to  
7 step out of the event in order to testify. But I  
8 can tell you a lot of people that are here tonight  
9 were really torn about -- they're here from many  
10 different towns -- whether they could testify,  
11 whether they were here at the event. So I'm just  
12 letting you know there's people here that are  
13 watching a film and were not -- did not sign in,  
14 but I'm in a secret side room at the library. And  
15 thank you for listening and for holding this  
16 hearing.

17 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you  
18 for coming out and giving us your comments this  
19 evening.

20 Okay. That concludes the public  
21 comments for this evening. The Council announces  
22 that it will continue the evidentiary session of  
23 this public hearing on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 2  
24 p.m., via Zoom conferencing. A copy of the agenda  
25 of the continued evidentiary hearing session will

1 be available on the Council's website, along with  
2 the record of this matter, the public hearing  
3 notice, instructions for public access to the  
4 evidentiary hearing session, and the Council's  
5 Citizens Guide to Siting Council procedures.

6 Please note that anyone who has not  
7 become a party or intervenor but who desires to  
8 make his or her views known to the Council may  
9 file written statements with the Council until the  
10 public comment period closes.

11 Copies of the transcript of this  
12 hearing will be filed at the Simsbury Town Clerk's  
13 Office.

14 I hereby declare this hearing  
15 adjourned. And thank you, everyone, for your  
16 participation. Have a good evening. Thank you.

17 (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at  
18 7:37 p.m.)  
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 56 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original stenotype notes taken of the Public Hearing (Public Comment Session) held before the Connecticut Siting Council in Re: Petition No. 1698, LSE Lynx LLC (Lodestar Energy) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-176 and Section 16-50k, for the construction, maintenance and operation of a 4.65-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated equipment located at 140 Nod Road, Simsbury, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection, which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, VICE CHAIR, via Zoom, on April 23, 2026.



Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061  
Notary Public  
My commission expires:  
May 31, 2028

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