

**State of Connecticut**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL**



**REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD A. SMITH**  
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**ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**RANKING MEMBER**  
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

September 21, 2017

Robert Stein, Chairman  
Connecticut Siting Council  
Ten Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

**ORIGINAL**

**RE: Petition No. 1312 – Candlewood Solar LLC petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 20 megawatt AC (26.5 megawatt DC) solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located on a 163 acre parcel at 197 Candlewood Mountain Road and associated electrical interconnection to Eversource Energy's Rocky River Substation on Kent Road in New Milford, Connecticut.**

Dear Chairman Stein, esteemed members of the CT Siting Council, and Acting Executive Director Bachman:

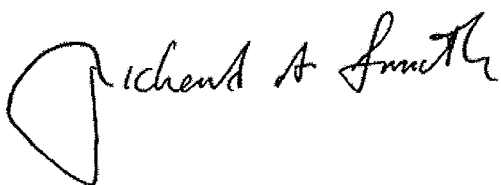
I write in opposition to Petition No. 1312 currently before the Connecticut Siting Council and request that your Council reject Candlewood Solar's petition for a declaratory ruling that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is not needed for the installation of solar panels in New Milford. While it is admirable to convert as many energy sources to renewable, clean methods, this project is counter protecting the environment and poses a danger to the landings at the nearby airport.

This project, if allowed to move forward, would mean razing almost half of the 163 acre parcel in question, destroying the wildlife and habitat currently present, lowering property values, disrupting our picturesque mountain community, and more seriously, endangering any air traffic utilizing the nearby airport. The projected panels are to be installed on a south slope of Candlewood Mountain, a gem of western Connecticut, which could contribute to erosion of the mountain.

Understanding the importance of our natural environment, Connecticut has made strides over the past years. Our state did not sign on to the tri-state proposal to create a power purchase agreement with Massachusetts and Rhode Island, however the other two states approved it. Further, the legislature passed a law requiring the Siting Council to consider preservation alongside green energy projects, to give weight to local communities, forests and farmland over expediency and corporate wishes. This proposal skirted the letter of the law, and the spirit behind it, by filing 3 days prior to its effective date. Moreover, there are other areas in New Milford which are better suited for the panels and already possess a cleared parcel.

I respectfully request that the Connecticut Siting Council reject Petition No. 1312 and bolster our citizens' trust and confidence in the state. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact my office to discuss this situation further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R" on the left.

Richard A. Smith  
State Representative, 108<sup>th</sup> District