

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 22, 2017

Melanie Bachman
Acting Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Petition No. 1312 – Candlewood Solar, LLC

Dear Ms. Bachman:

We write to clarify our position on the plan to develop a 20Mw Solar PV installation on Candlewood Mountain in New Milford, CT.

While we maintain strong support for solar energy projects in Connecticut, it has come to our attention that there remain outstanding environmental questions on this particular project. We have recently had the opportunity to review materials submitted to the Connecticut Siting Council by the New Milford Conservation Commission, Farmland and Forest Preservation Committee, Inland Wetlands Commission, and Zoning Commission, among others. Several of these documents include questions about the impact on wildlife and vegetation, soil erosion, wetlands and watercourses, and air traffic at the nearby airport. Without having a full understanding of the answers to these questions, we are unable to judge the siting of the project.

In addition, significant public opposition has been raised in recent weeks to this specific proposal. We believe that major projects such as this work best when communities are supportive and come to consensus. It appears that consensus has not been achieved.

Investing in renewable energy sources is vital to the future of our state and nation. We continue to see the lasting negative impact of our reliance on fossil fuels on the environment and our national security. It is our hope that solar and other alternative energy projects will find appropriate sites in Connecticut to continue our progress toward a clean energy future. We ask that this proposal be fully and completely vetted by the Siting Council.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate



ELIZABETH H. ESTY
Member of Congress