

Town of Durham

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

LAURA L. FRANCIS



December 21, 2017

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

Re: Petition for Declaratory Ruling by Durham Manufacturing Company
Solar Array off Maiden Lane

Dear Director Bachman,

At the invitation of the Durham Manufacturing Company (DMC), I had the pleasure of attending a December 14th meeting with the abutters of this proposed solar project. DMC had also invited Durham municipal commission representatives and several were in attendance.

DMC brought their whole team to the meeting including; the contractor hired to build the system, the ecological specialist hired to manage both the wetlands crossing and the landscaping design and the legal team helping DMC with the petition. After a detailed presentation about the project and the process, the team comfortably addressed questions and made note of suggestions presented by both abutters and some of our commission representatives. This meeting was a model of community engagement.

The residents of the town of Durham are generally very supportive of solar photovoltaic energy, having one of the most residential installations from the Solarize CT program, a municipal installation using the ZREC program and panels on one of our elementary school buildings. This year, the Durham Fair has placed solar photovoltaic panels on some of their barn structures on the fairgrounds using the CPACE program.

DMC has been a fixture in our community for generations and I have witnessed first-hand their enduring commitment to our town. Having been fully briefed on the plan and having personally observed their community outreach efforts, I want to offer my full and unequivocal endorsement of the plan.

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to call me.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura L. Francis".

Laura L. Francis
First Selectman, Town of Durham.