

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CANDLEWOOD SOLAR PROJECT LLC, PETITION FOR
DECLARATION RULING THAT NO
CERTIFICATE AND PUBLIC NEED
IS REQUIRED FOR A 20.0 MEGAWATT
AC SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRIC
GENERATING FACILITY IN NEW MILFORD
CONNECTICUT

PETITION NO. 1312

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF CARL M. DUNHAM, JR.

My name is Carl M. Dunham, Jr. and I live at 195 Candlewood Mountain Road, New Milford, adjacent to the proposed entrance into this project. I own approximately 600 acres of land which abuts the subject property in part on the north, south and west. I have lived on my property my entire life. Growing up we had a registered Jersey dairy herd; currently we have a horse farm for boarding, riding and teaching and a hay operation. The property also includes Candlelight Farms Inn which has been in existence since the early 1940s and currently functions as an event and wedding facility as well as a bed and breakfast. My property further includes a heliport with extensive commercial airport property abutting Candlelight Farms Airport. I am supportive of environmental issues. I have maintained and improved the subject parcel as well as my other properties by restoring the farm fields and creating a network of trails and ponds on the properties such that they would be suitable for agricultural, business and recreational use.

In 2004 a developer tried to place an active adult community on this property. The New Milford Zoning Commission created a specific zone for this project, the Major Planned Residential Development District (MPRDD) which is in effect today. The project was denied approval from both the New Milford Zoning Commission and the Inland Wetland Commission on several accounts including a poor storm water management plan as well as what was considered an excess grade of the access road to Route 7. Also noted were the considerable adverse environmental impacts of the project. I believe we must consider these reasons

for past denial in our approach to Candlewood Solar's attempt to clear cut 72 acres of forest and install 75,000 solar panels, as they are all still relevant. In addition, on appeal of the denial, Litchfield Superior Court settled with an agreement that the Zoning Commission would not seek to alter the zone.

The applicant stated that they could not do Candlewood Solar unless they received a Tax Abatement. The Mayor broke a tie on the Town Council to approve a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement which includes a 20-year abatement provision. How can you approve of this plan which does not have to go before our Zoning Commission and Wetland Commission especially after the rules of the appeal from the last project.

Public Act No. 17-218 for the first time scrutinized siting of these facilities. This proposal is in direct conflict with the existing policies in Connecticut to support and encourage the maintenance of farmland as well as our natural environment and extensive forest land. Moreover the clear cutting and stumping of land impacts bird and wildlife habitats including endangered species. When areas are clear cut and stumped specifically over the existing ledge it will create significant storm water issues which need to be investigated and safe guarded; to me this has a negative effect as to water issues. The Petitioner has the burden of proof to show that there is no significant adverse environmental impact. I don't believe that this has been established in this case nor do I believe it can be accomplished.

This proposed massive solar power plant is not appropriate in this mountain location. There are sufficient alternate locations within the State of Connecticut to provide appropriate sites for the renewable energy that the State has the desire to create.

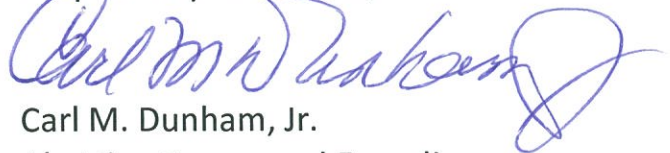
- It appears Candlewood Solar LLC is not financially strong enough, if as testified, it would require a 20 year abatement to move forward. Will we be able to, in fact, be assured of not having adverse consequences or whether the Town will be left with an on going problem and mess. It is fine for Ameresco to put in all documents as to their power and strength but that will not help if the main company with all its assets are not part of this agreement.
- I question the need in Connecticut for this energy proposal. All of this energy goes to the grid and another state and was never supported in the RFP by Connecticut DEEP.

- There is no benefit to the Town of New Milford to offset the depreciating and negative effects of this proposal.
- This project a safety hazard for the airport, pilots and aircraft. Its construction and existence will hurt the surrounding properties of Candlewood Mountain.
- This project will result in a scar on Candlewood Mountain visible to residents in parts of Sherman, Roxbury and Bridgewater (all who were not entitled to notification of this project) as well as New Milford. This will hurt the entire area.
- This proposal is not consistent with the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. It is not allowed by New Milford Zoning regulations. Nor is it consistent with the mission of the New Milford Forest and Farmland Preservation Committee.
- The construction access for this project should be through other adjacent industrial property of the lessor which abuts this property on the east and provides access directly to Route 7 over a town road layout which access was required by the use of the zone.
- Lastly I feel that this petition should be denied for the reasons set forth in the Motion and Memorandum already submitted to the Siting Council by the DEEP.

City/County of Litchfield
 State of Connecticut
 The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me
 this 19th day of September, 2017
 by Carl M. Dunham, Jr.
Noreen H. Prichard Notary Public
 My commission expires _____

NOREEN H. PRICHARD
 NOTARY PUBLIC
 State of Connecticut
 My Commission Expires
 April 30, 2019

Respectfully submitted,



Carl M. Dunham, Jr.
 Abutting Owner and Founding
 Member of Rescue Candlewood
 Mountain