

Dear Siting Council,

Re: Petition No. 1443 - SR North Stonington, LLC, Providence New London Turnpike (Rte. 184) and Boom Bridge Rd.

- On February 23rd notice was sent to the town about the above referenced 9.9 MW solar facility being planned on Route 184. On March 4th the public was noticed at the regular Planning and Zoning meeting about this project and at the March 11th Planning and Zoning meeting, the petitioners were invited to discuss the project and answer questions. During that meeting, residents and Commission members raised several concerns. We would like to bring some of these concerns to your attention for your consideration. When the DEEP originally approved the location for this project, there were no panels proposed for the North side of Route 184. The project now incorporates the 31 acre wooded parcel north of Rte. 184 which will directly affect several abutting residential neighbors
- The southern portion of the project area features a former gravel pit which for some reason is not being used for panels. Since this part of the property would be the most environmentally suitable vs. clear cutting trees on the 31 acre undisturbed parcel, we would request the council propose the majority of the panels be placed in this southern area of the property to minimize the impact to currently undisturbed areas and therefore maintain the wildlife habitat and forest that currently exists there.
- We are concerned that some of this property is core forest and thus should not be used for a project such as this.
- There is currently an effective buffer between residents to the north of the project area as well as those within the project area in general from Interstate 95 formed by the many healthy trees throughout the 5 parcels that make up the project area – particularly the 31 acre parcel north of Rte. 184. Maintaining this buffer needs to be a priority as it will not only impact the residents with respect to noise, but there will be an extreme visual impact as well.
- There are several neighbors who directly abutt this project (which is in a residential zone) who are concerned about the setback from their property line to the clearing limit for the project. We would urge the council to require an adequate buffer utilizing appropriate trees or bushes so the abutting property owners can maintain their quality of life they have become accustomed to in the area.
- The project calls for a high perimeter fence with barbed wire on top. In keeping with our rural character, we would oppose a chain link fence or any fencing that does not match the character of the rural area this project is located in.

We were encouraged to hear that SR North Stonington LLC was willing to listen to the Town and neighbors' concerns. We would urge the Siting council to give considerable attention the above mentioned issues prior to any approval. Furthermore, we would request an extension of the public comment period so more community outreach can take place from the petitioners, and the Town can hire a soil scientist to provide an opinion on the suitability of locating panels in the proposed locations. Given the COVID-19 climate we do not feel the appropriate amount of outreach and communication has happened with all abutters nor the town.

Sincerely,

Mike Urgo

First Selectman

Bob Carlson
Selectman

Nita Kincaid
Selectwoman
Consideration