

March 9, 2016

Dear City Councilors:

I'm submitting this letter in support of the proposed PV array installation at the City of Concord's Wastewater Treatment facility. I would have liked to attend the City Council meeting in person to give my remarks, however, my wife recently gave birth to our second child. I suspect others in our demographic have similar demands on their time, and as such, younger residents are typically underrepresented at these types of meetings. However I can assure you that issues of energy and the environment are a top concern for those of us in our 30s and 20s (and even more so for our children, who will bear the consequences of the choices that are made today around energy).

We decided a little over a year ago that Concord was going to be the place where we settled down and raised a family. We love it here, but having lived in three other states in New England, the state of affairs around energy policy here in New Hampshire is an embarrassment. We lag behind the rest of the region in almost every measure of energy efficiency and renewable energy. This is highly discouraging, and the impact that it has in terms of air quality, keeping our energy dollars local, building interesting and sustainable places, and managing long-term energy costs is palpable. And each of these plays in role as younger families like ourselves decide on their own where they will choose to make their home.

This project strikes a balance between issues of land use, economics and long-term feasibility and can help set the tone for the region. In addition to all of the other benefits this project offers for Concord residents, it can help move the needle for New Hampshire as a whole. I hope that Concord will take the lead in pushing for more sources of renewable energy. Thank you.

Kevin Porter  
43 Timberline Dr.

## Bonenfant, Janice

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**From:** Kretovic, Jennifer  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 12, 2016 9:05 AM  
**To:** Bonenfant, Janice  
**Subject:** FW: Solar Array Proposal

Hello Janice,

With permission from Ms. DeAngelis, please distribute to my colleagues on the Council for their awareness and consideration of her thoughts on the Solar Array Proposal.

My best,

Jennifer

Councilor Jennifer Kretovic

City of Concord, New Hampshire

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Home Contact: 8 Gallen Drive, Concord, NH 03303, (603) 228-8395

[jkretovic@concordnh.gov](mailto:jkretovic@concordnh.gov)

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**From:** [hdeangelis@myfairpoint.net](mailto:hdeangelis@myfairpoint.net) [hdeangelis@myfairpoint.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2016 4:26 PM  
**To:** Kretovic, Jennifer  
**Subject:** Solar Array Proposal

Dear Jennifer,

While attending the conservation commission meeting on Wednesday I learned of the proposal to put a solar array near the wastewater treatment plant on Hall Street. I think the fact that the city is interested in pursuing solar power is fantastic. I have solar panels on my home and believe in supporting this energy source. However, I want to express my concerns about this site, and the manner in which the proposal has been presented.

First, the site:

There were 4 sites evaluated. One could not support a large enough array, one, at the landfill, an otherwise unusable piece of land, was deemed not cost effective (no explanation provided) and the last two, at the wastewater treatment plants (Penacook and Hall Street) are both on flood plains. "almost the entire Penacook Street site and a sizable portion of the Hall Street site fell with in a 100--year floodplain" is the wording from the proposal.

The Hall Street site is currently being farmed by Green & Gold Farm. This is an established, long term relationship between the farmer and the city, and this array will eliminate the use of this land for farming, possibly this year, which breaks that contract and the farmer will lose the money he has already put into the 2016 crops.

These 2 reasons, floodplain designation and the loss of farmland, make this decision a very bad precedent to set for the city. There is a reason much of Concord's floodplains are used for crops - it allows for productive use of unbuildable land, and should they get flooded, the loss may be a year's crop, but not infrastructure.

The second issue is that the conservation commission was not consulted about this project. More than one member of the council asked "Why is this this first time we are hearing about this?" The committee bringing this to the council is the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee, and it seems they have used the "energy" part of the title at the expense of the 'environment'. Removal of farmed land in Concord in favor of infrastructure is another precedent I hope the city will not set.

In reading the proposal, it appears they have not only decided upon a site, but signed a contract with a provider before bringing this to the council. I'm all for minimizing duplication of meetings but to exclude the conservation commission from the decision and bringing in a signed contract with a vendor to the public hearing seems to skip a few steps.

I ask that you continue to pursue solar as an option for the city, but please do not approve this particular contract on Monday. I have sent this to the 4 at large councilors as well.

Sincerely,

Hilary DeAngelis  
102 Little Pond Road  
Concord, NH

----- End forwarded message -----

## Bonenfant, Janice

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**From:** Aspell, Thomas  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2016 9:18 AM  
**To:** Bonenfant, Janice  
**Subject:** FW: Solar Project

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**From:** St. Hilaire, Dan  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2016 9:44 PM  
**To:** Werner, Robert; Aspell, Thomas  
**Subject:** Fwd: Solar Project

I am forwarding this note from one of my constituents for your review. Thank you.

Dan St. Hilaire

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Chuck Souther <[chuck@applehillfarmnh.com](mailto:chuck@applehillfarmnh.com)>  
**Date:** March 13, 2016 at 6:17:44 PM EDT  
**To:** <[dsthilaire@concordnh.gov](mailto:dsthilaire@concordnh.gov)>  
**Subject:** Solar Project

Dan,

Regarding the proposed solar array on city land at the Hall St treatment plant. I have followed the issue for some time and have read the report by Beacon Integrated Solutions. First and foremost I want thank you for exploring ways for reducing city expenses, as a taxpayer I appreciate that, and it is clear that the city would likely get a greater monetary return with the solar installation than it would get from leasing the land top one of my fellow farmers. That is a larger issue that concerns me, land is apparently worth more for trying make the City of Concord "feel" green, than it is for the production of food or fiber.

My comments on the report.

As I am sure you are aware the installation will effect Prime Agricultural soils, and am also sure you know that our Master plan says that we should protect these soils. I realize that the Master plan is just that, a plan, it is not set in stone. The report touches on the prospective solar installation being worked on that would be on private land off west Portsmouth St. This proposal will also likely effect some farm land. I have to wonder if the city and it's citizens will embrace that project, or oppose it, because of it's effect on farmland, possibly some wetlands, and profits that may accrue will be to a private landowner and a large out of state corporation.

I would hope that you would ask the developers of the proposed City of Concord solar array a couple questions regarding these soils. Is the top soil going to be removed to install the solar panels or are posts of some sort just going to be driven into soil. If the topsoil is going to remain I assume some sort of vegetation control will have to be practiced. e.g. Mowing? Is the cost of mowing in and around 15 acres of structures included in the budget. If the topsoil is to be removed than I think we can say that the future use of that land for agriculture is gone.

The land. Using the map / measure tools on the city website I do not come up with the acreage amount in the report. At best, the tools calculate 24 acres of crop land. The report indicates that 15 acres of solar panels would be installed, and the report indicates that there are 40 acres of crop

land. The report goes on to calculate that only 28% of the crop land would be impacted. I hope that you would ask for some clarification. The numbers simply don't add up. I also would like to say that although I am not interested in renting this land, as a farmer, I look at the remaining parcels and the odd shapes of those parcels, I have doubts that any farmers are going to be found who would be interested in renting these odd shaped parcels. In making that statement I am also assuming the Treatment plant management is not interested in leasing small parcels in a "community garden" type effort. After all the Hall St plant is a gated facility. In using the measurement tools on the City website I measured the mowed lawn in between the Hall St. treatment plant and Hall St. and came up with nearly 6 acres. Same solar exposure, accessibility to power lines, and we are already mowing it, why not utilize that space? Are there other city owned parcels that could perhaps be used that would not impact prime agricultural soils?

I also note in the report that three other city owned parcels were explored. The drinking water treatment plant on Hutchinson St., {not enough open land poor solar exposure}. The Treatment plant land in Penacook, {in the flood plain not a great place for structures}, and the closed landfill on old Turnpike Rd, {not economical.} I would ask why was that site not economical?

Finally what happens to the solar site when the installation reaches it's economic end of life. Who owns the panels and how are they disposed of, are they insured, what happens if we have a catastrophic flood, or other serious weather event that damages the panels.? Is the city covered? And what happens if Solar City goes away?

In closing I hope that the City Council does it's due diligence, asks many more questions than I have here, and does not rush into a long term contract without being absolutely sure it is in the best overall interests of the citizens of Concord. Let me close with thanking you for putting the time on this issue and the countless other issues the Council works on, for all of us in Concord.

Chuck Souther Apple Hill Farm  
580 Mountain Rd.  
Concord, NH