

Carl Bucholt
116 Sleepy Hollow Drive
Manchester Center, VT 05255

November 1, 2021

Ms Holly Anderson
Clerk of the Commission
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701



Re: Case No. 20-1261-NMP

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you because I am upset, and very disappointed, about your decision to deny a permit for MHG's solar project on Richville Road in Manchester. I would urge you to reconsider your objections and grant the permit to MHG Solar for the following reasons.

1. The project was thoroughly discussed and voted on by three town entities: the Conservation Commission, the Planning Commission, and the Select Board. All three voted to approve the project after hearing concerns from neighbors about flooding and aesthetics. What happened to "local control"?
2. You denied the permit based on aesthetics, which is an incredibly subjective criterion. There's an old saying that's pertinent here: "The difference between a flower and a weed is a judgment". I happen to think solar arrays and windmills are beautiful because they represent clean energy. Think about the telephone poles and electric wires strung up all over Vermont. Are they beautiful? No. We accept them because of their utility. We don't object to the electric wires and poles because they're ubiquitous and essential. The same could be true for solar panels and windmills.

As for this specific project, I attended the town meetings and saw the renderings of what the proposed screening would look like. I'm very familiar with the Richville Road site. The plantings would be more than adequate; 90% of the view of Mt Equinox would be maintained.

3. We need to build more renewable energy infrastructure in Vermont if we are going to meet our climate goals. Where are the necessary solar projects supposed to go? There are not enough places (gravel pits, abandoned landfills) to erect solar panels only where they would be invisible. We can't generate sufficient clean energy to power electric cars and heat pumps without siting some projects where they're visible. We are in a climate crisis. Therefore, our default position must be to approve - not deny - solar projects unless there are serious problems with the location. After careful deliberation, all three town boards decided the site was an acceptable location for a solar project. The Richville Road project won't by itself solve all our energy problems but without permitting projects such as this one, we will never meet our stated goals.

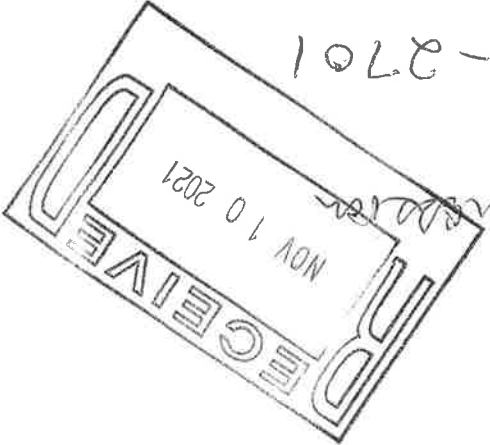
Sincerely,

Carl Bucholt



0562082701

Mandepollor, VT 05620-2701
112 State St



Holly Anderson, Clerk
VT Public Utility Commission



WHITE RIV JCT VT 050
NOV 10 2021 PM 1:17

Handwritten notes: juchelt, 102 Kellow Dr, 05620 VT