

November 11, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Lowell Vermont, regarding the proposed solar development project planned for the center of our town. While I support renewable energy and understand the importance of transitioning to sustainable sources, I believe this particular project raises serious concerns that merit further review. This project will be an eyesore for anyone who travels Route 100 through Lowell. Our town is very beautiful and scenic and this is what draws people here and catches the eyes of those passing through. With a giant solar field of over 15,000 panels in the center of the town we will lose that.

The proposed location is not ideal. It sits at the heart of our community—an area cherished for its scenic beauty and rural character. Installing a large-scale solar array here would dramatically alter the visual landscape, undermining the aesthetic integrity that defines our town and draws both residents and visitors alike. The charm and identity of our town are deeply tied to its open spaces, natural views, and agricultural lands. This project risks replacing that with industrial infrastructure that feels out of place.

Our town has already contributed meaningfully to Vermont's renewable energy goals through the installation of wind towers. We are not opposed to clean energy—but we believe it must be implemented thoughtfully, in locations that make sense for both people and the environment. The proposed site for this solar array is simply not ideal.

It sits at the heart of our community—directly across from our local school and along the main road that leads to Jay Peak, a route traveled by countless visitors each year. Installing a large-scale solar array here would dramatically alter the visual landscape, undermining the aesthetic integrity that defines our town and draws both residents and tourists. The company behind the project, MHG Solar, has suggested planting trees to screen the array—but are we expected to wait 8-10+ years for those trees to grow tall enough to be effective?

Furthermore, several homeowners would be forced to face this massive solar array from their front doors every day. These residents chose to live in this area for its peaceful, natural surroundings—not to look out at rows of metal and glass. Their property values, quality of life, and sense of place are all at risk.

Moreover, the area that surrounds this piece of land serves as a wintering ground for deer and the field they will be placing the panels in is frequented by bird species such as

the bobolinks, that are nearing endangered status. Disrupting this ecosystem could have irreversible consequences for local biodiversity and the health of our natural environment.

The proposed project not only threatens to disrupt the scenic character of our town and the experience of visitors en route to Jay Peak, but it also poses long-term consequences for land use. Once the solar field reaches the end of its operational life and is decommissioned, the land will be rendered unsuitable for future agricultural use.

This project stands in direct conflict with our own state statutes governing renewable energy, which state:

30 V.S.A. § 248 B(5)

“(5) With respect to an in-state facility, *will not have an undue adverse effect on aesthetics*, historic sites, air and water purity, the natural environment, the use of natural resources, and the public health and safety, with due consideration having been given to the criteria specified in 10 V.S.A. §§ 1424a(d) and 6086(a)(1) through (8) and (9)(K), *impacts to primary agricultural soils* as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001, and greenhouse gas impacts.”

What’s most troubling is the pace and process by which this project is being advanced. The developer is Northland Solar, LLC which is owned by MHG Solar appears to be pushing it through rapidly, leaving little room for public input or meaningful town discussion. Many residents feel unheard and excluded from decisions that will directly affect their lives and community. This lack of transparency and community engagement is deeply concerning. There are bad projects, like this, that are highly opposed by the town residents for good reason.

Our taxes in Lowell are mainly education tax and this company will not have to pay taxes which is disheartening at best.

Gov. Phil Scott stated on Nov. 28, 2022 <https://governor.vermont.gov/press-release/vermont-communities-receive-significant-funding-bolster-local-economies-through>: “Vermont’s natural beauty combined with outdoor recreation opportunities, are economic engines for our state and a driving force for why people visit and live in Vermont.”

I respectfully urge your office to consider the location of this project to help our town push back against it and to ensure that a thorough environmental and community impact

assessment is conducted. Renewable energy is vital, but it must be pursued in harmony with the landscapes and ecosystems we cherish.

Respectfully,

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