

Rebecca Chauvin

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February 13, 2026

Dear Ms. Cheney,

This letter is to express my deep concern regarding a lithium-ion battery storage project being proposed for 99 Panton Rd, Vergennes.

My company, WOWTOYZ, is two doors down from the proposed site and I do not think this is a safe or smart project for the parcel of land at 99 Panton Rd.

It is my understanding that the project would be less than 50 feet from Panton Rd and well under the EPA recommended minimum distance of 330 feet from the nearest structure, many of which are houses. Not only are there numerous potential safety issues with this project (storing batteries known to be highly explosive and potential to emit toxic fumes and contaminate the environment, like our waterways) it will greatly impact our local fire department's ability to contain a fire if one were to occur, as it is well documented that lithium-ion battery fires are not easily extinguishable and require special firefighting apparatus that our local department does not have. According to the representative of the project, if a fire were to occur the city is instructed to "let it burn". For neighbors living near the lot, and as a business owner next door with valuable employees and valuable inventory, this is a completely unacceptable plan. Why would the city want to compromise the safety of those of us who live and work next door as well as our fire department?

Lastly, I believe approving a project like this, within the city limits, will be very bad PR for Vergennes, and will negatively affect both residential and commercial real estate sales in the city. We all know it is a competitive real estate market and no one wants to live within 150 ft of a potential hazard like this.

I implore the city council not to approve this battery storage project for Vergennes.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Chauvin