



February 22, 2024

Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street, 4th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05602

Re: Case No. 24-0039-PET

RE: Orleans Solar Array, Orleans, VT

Dear Public Utility Commission:

On Behalf of the Northeastern Vermont Development Association, please accept this letter of support for the Kearsarge PV Orleans LLC (“Petitioner”) proposed solar facility for Baird Road, Orleans. This project support is supported by the 2018 (amended in 2023) Regional Plan for the Northeast Kingdom (“NEK”):

NEK Regional Energy Goals:

- An adequate, reliable, diverse, and secure energy supply will benefit the region;
- Meet the goals of Vermont’s energy and greenhouse gas reduction while balancing affordability; and,
- Coordinate capacity planning needs with distribution utility.

The location of this project is consistent with our Regional Plan for the Northeast Kingdom. Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (“VPPSA”) will benefit from diversifying energy supply, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and receiving lower cost fixed energy for 20 years. These benefits lower costs and decrease stress on the local grid, while also providing a range of economic benefits including employment opportunities for local contractors, engineers, and consultants for the planning phase and local, small-scale economic activity including fuel purchases, lodging, and meals during construction.

We appreciate the Petitioner’s development of a project that helps achieve goals set forth in our Regional Plan and wish them success with their project.

Sincerely,

David Snedeker

David Snedeker
Executive Director