



TOWN OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
181 Business Route 4
Center Rutland, VT 05736
(802) 770-5072

Fellow Selectboard Chair,

January 13, 2015

Greetings, and Happy New Year from the Rutland Town Selectboard. Enclosed you will find a resolution drafted by our board which is being sent to every municipality in Vermont. We are attempting, through this resolution, to form a coalition of Vermont communities which will support reasonable legislation to restore local community input to the regulatory process when addressing the issue of Solar Siting in our state.

Our community has spent countless hours during a whole yearlong process to develop a document called SOLAR SITING STANDARDS, which was then adopted by our Planning Commission as an amendment to our Town Plan. This document was a thoughtful representation of our community's support for Solar development and outlined our town's plan for its reasonable integration to the landscape of our community. The document, and therefore our town's plan for such development, was virtually ignored by the regulatory process. This is not what we feel the state intended when encouraging and supporting the entire deliberative planning process in our state which has served us all so well for decades.

Our board, indeed our citizens, are not opposed to Renewable Energy including Solar development. We view the enclosed Resolution as a positive step in the introduction of bi-partisan legislation that will allow local community leaders such as yours legitimate input to the Solar Siting Process and standards.

You may show your support for this resolution by simply signing the document at the bottom and/or indicating a date of a board vote to do so, and returning same to: Rutland Town Selectboard, 181 Business Rt. 4, Center Rutland, VT 05736. Our intent is that legislation be introduced in both the House and Senate at the earliest date possible.

Thank you in advance for joining other Vermont communities in our attempt to give meaningful input to our citizenry, and we wish you the best in your valuable service to your community.

Respectfully yours,

Steven E. Hawley, Chairman

Rutland Town Selectboard

RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE INPUT OF VERMONT MUNICIPALITIES REGARDING THE SITING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS IN CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD.

WHEREAS, The General Assembly has set aggressive goals for the development of renewable energy in Vermont.

WHEREAS, as a result of these aggressive goals the number of certificate of public good (CPG) applications before the Public Service Board (PSB) has increased substantially.

WHEREAS, at best, the current CPG process provided by 30 V.S.A. §248 affords a limited and ineffectual role for Vermont municipalities, municipal planning commissions, and town selectboards. Regardless of the content, scope, or impact on a proposed renewable energy project or a municipality's efforts to have a say in the project's siting, the §248 process and the legal analysis employed by the PSB enable the PSB to disregard and/or avoid the policies and standards of the very municipality in which the renewable energy project is to be located. By focusing on regional impacts, to the exclusion of local municipal impacts, the PSB routinely ignores the input and evidence offered by Vermont municipalities. As a result, the "due consideration" of municipal viewpoints required by 30 V.S.A. §248(b)(1) has become consideration in name only.

WHEREAS, it has become clear that legislative changes are needed to afford Vermont municipalities a greater say in the approval and siting of renewable energy projects.

THEREFORE, it is RESOLVED by the undersigned Vermont municipalities, to instruct their state representatives and senators to develop amendments to the statutes that concern the siting and approval of renewable energy projects and to the procedures of the PSB in order to ensure that Vermont municipalities have a more meaningful role in the CPG process and to require compliance with appropriately-developed municipal siting standards.