

**From:** virginia williams [mailto:virginiakingry@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2015 5:30 PM  
**To:** Katie Pickens  
**Subject:** public hearing

We would like to submit our comment letter of September 23, 2014 to the Public Service Board for this evenings legislative hearing. In addition, we would like to add the following postscript to these comments after witnessing first hand the application process and installation of the Mile Point solar array as installed by the Basin Harbor Club and All Earth Renewables.

Solar sites could have been located in a manner that would have minimized the negative impact on residents and tourists. But this would have reduced the profit of those pursuing the solar "gold rush". What we now have is the impulse of greed imposed on Vermont's greatest asset and those who rightfully consider this landscape to be part of the commons. Is the objective alternative energy or profit? Who does the Vermont legislature work for? The solar industry or the citizens of Vermont?

Roger Williams  
Virginia Williams  
19 O'Bryan Lane  
Vergennes, Vermont 05491

September 23, 2014

Vermont Public Service Board  
112 State Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2701

Re: Certificate of Public Good Application by AllEarth Renewables for Solar Array  
on  
Beach Properties, Inc., d/b/a Basin Harbor Club

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed installation of solar panels on Basin Harbor property by AllEarth Renewables.

My husband and I are currently owners of the property located at 19 O'Bryan Lane Vergennes, Vermont at Mile Point. As Mile Point Road is the only access to all of the properties at Mile Point we consider this access road to be in fact an extended driveway, making us an abutter to the Basin Harbor Club proposed solar field. With respect to PSB Rule 5:109 we were not properly notified of the application filed by the Basin Harbor Club to build a solar array on Mile Point Road. This failure to notify the individual residents of Mile Point has resulted in a significant disadvantage in order to review the proposal, become adequately informed on the equipment being used and understand fully the consequences of the installation. We therefore respectfully request a technical evidentiary hearing to address this failure.

We would also like to state that we are in complete support and in concurrence with the comments submitted by Mary McGuire of 243 Mile Point Road, Vergennes, Vermont.

In addition to the points made by Mary McGuire we would like to make the following comments:

Mile Point is a diverse group of residents, from varying socio-economic backgrounds. Many of these families are multi-generational seasonal residents and some are year round residents. A few of these families pre-date the acquisition of the Basin Harbor Club by the Beach family. The installation of a solar array in the shoreline district not only degrades the aesthetic of this Lake Champlain community but irreparably damages the historical context and value we have come to view as interwoven with our property. This is the fundamental premise of all historic conservation and poses a substantial loss of enjoyment and value of our property.

The actions of the Basin Harbor Club demonstrate a complete disregard for this relationship. The BHC is motivated strictly by self-interest in leasing this land to Mathew Rubin for the subsequent tax credits. Mr. Beach has served on the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Ferrisburgh while the Ferrisburgh Town Plan was written and updated in 2005. BHC has publically supported the protection of the agricultural and rural nature of the land that surrounds the BHC, while rejecting any overture to mitigate the aesthetic damage done by this installation. The BHC has refused to consider moving this site to any other location on their 700 acres in order to protect their guests from the unsightly and out of the rural character of the solar field.

This is clearly not an issue of providing renewable energy to benefit Vermonters or reduce greenhouse gases; it is an incentivized scheme to financially benefit a small group of people and would appear to politically advance the objectives of the current state administration.

We feel there is a significant economic risk to the state of Vermont in permitting this growing faction of unregulated private interests to turn the state in to a massive mirror ball. Many artists see beauty in industrial sites or subjects, but we respectfully submit that this is not what people come to Vermont to see in our rural, agricultural, breathtakingly beautiful landscape. To spoil this is a choice that can only be made by the interests of those who take the money and run.

Finally, we strenuously object to the implementation of the 2050 renewable energy goals as they are currently being administered by the state and the Public Service Board. By all appearances this is a game that is rigged.

The growing animus for the dictatorial action of the PSB stems, in our view, from the loss of confidence in the institutions of local governance. In a state where billboards are banned, Town Meetings determine local policy, communities alongside elected officials appropriately determine land usage and development; the wholesale exercise of unchecked power is alarming on its face and should be examined for any improper collusion with industry.

We believe that all of the PSB criteria for denying the certificate of public good have been met. The Town Plan of Ferrisburgh clearly states the wishes of the community with regard to commercial development, and the state has passed legislation to protect the shoreline of Lake Champlain. Yet, it would appear that given the record of the PSB in approving massive projects in Charlotte, perhaps New Haven and elsewhere, that the financial interests of the BHC and Mr. Rubin will inevitably trump the legitimate concerns of Mile Point residents.

The effort to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gases should be a collaborate effort, one that involves Vermont's towns in the planning process. This would promote a more positive buy in for stakeholders. We, as residents of Vermont are now embattled in a bewildering process that has subverted our democratic institutions. The interests of this faction are adverse to those of the community, they are being advanced against our collective will and this is simply wrong.

Sincerely,

Roger Williams

Virginia Williams