

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: JANUARY 9, 2024

WRITTEN TESTIMONY: PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING - PROPOSED SOLAR VOLTAIC POWER GENERATING FACILITY - 17 WICKHAM ROAD

First Name	Last Name	Street Address	Written Testimony: Per Council rules & procedures, testimony at public hearings is limited to 5 minutes. Please limit your written testimony to what can be reasonably read to the record of the public hearing in 5 minutes.
Deborah	Bolnick	57 Stanley Drive, Glastonbury, CT 06033	I write to express my opposition to the proposed solar voltaic power generating facility at 17 Wickham Road. Like many members of the Glastonbury community, I would like to see this land continue to be used for farming rather than this kind of more industrial facility. Farming is an important part of the town's history and character, and it would be very unfortunate to see land in such a central and prominent location in our community lost for a long time, if not forever, to farming. Installing such a facility in this location would substantially change the feel of our community, in a negative way. Many of us moved here precisely because we appreciate the character of Glastonbury and absence of such facilities in residential areas. I also have concerns about the potential environmental impacts and property value impacts on those who live in the surrounding neighborhoods.
Melissa	Passarello	1786 Chalker Hill	I oppose the Solar Facility proposal for Hebron Avenue. Let the Fuel Cell that appeared on the corner of Hebron Avenue and Chalker Hill in 2016 serve as a cautionary tale to utility takeover. Unfortunately, the Siting Council and utilities hold the upper hand and generally prevail. Glastonbury's rural community feel is already diminishing, with increased traffic and exponential residential and commercial development, most imposed on this town. Those who purchased homes in that area did not agree to neighboring solar panels. Speaking as a resident who still is directly impacted by the fuel cell, I urge the town to explore every aspect of this proposal - aesthetic, environmental, health and safety, historical preservation, real estate - and fight to ensure the Siting Council does not litter allow another utility to ruin Hebron Ave.
Christina	Burke	80 Candlelight Drive	Dear Committee Members, I am writing to oppose a solar "farm" being built at 17 Wickham Road. The fact that solar companies use the term "farm" is inherently misleading. Farms are meant to be for berry picking, corn mazes, pumpkin patches and hay rides. All of which I have enjoyed with my children at this site. There's nothing farm like about a desolate field filled with large industrial metal panels. I understand this property is privately owned by the Catholic Cemeteries Association. On the front page of the Catholic Cemeteries Association's website is a letter from Archbishop Leonard P. Blair describing the mission of the thirty cemeteries they operate and manage stating " The beautiful grounds... pay tribute to those who have gone before us, while providing a place of prayer, peace and serenity for family and friends." May the committee remind Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archbishop's words and ask them what they think encapsulates serenity, peacefulness and beauty better- solar panels or farm land? Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Christina Burke 80 Candlelight Drive
Kelly	Hogan	45 lindsay lane	I do not approve of the solar farm proposal. I made this town my home for my family for many reasons and a solar farm was not one of them. While I do think solar farms can be beneficial, I do not think one so close to a densely populated area is appropriate. What are the implications on animal and human life if built this close? What happens to protecting our agricultural community? If we don't set boundaries now, we will in time lose everything this town was built on. I strongly oppose this location for a solar farm. Please for the benefit of the town consider the negative impacts it will have.

Sarah	Dzialo	363 Main St, South Glastonbury, CT, 06073	It would be a shame to lose the open space. And solar farms are a real eye sore. Solar panels are best/great on roofs of buildings.
Michael	Lawlor	76 Ridgecrest Road	I am writing to show my support for this project. Expanding solar energy is crucial for both energy independence and economic growth through increased tax revenue. As nations strive for energy independence, diversifying their energy sources becomes paramount to reduce reliance on finite and geopolitically sensitive fossil fuels. Solar energy, harnessed from the sun's abundant and renewable rays, offers a sustainable solution that can significantly contribute to a nation's self-sufficiency. By investing in solar infrastructure, countries can reduce their vulnerability to fluctuations in global energy markets and geopolitical tensions surrounding traditional energy sources. Moreover, the expansion of solar energy has substantial economic benefits, particularly in generating tax revenue. The solar industry creates jobs in manufacturing, installation, and maintenance, fostering economic growth and reducing unemployment rates. Additionally, as solar projects proliferate, they contribute to local and national tax bases, further funding public services and infrastructure development. By incentivizing and prioritizing solar initiatives, governments can not only enhance energy security but also bolster their fiscal health, creating a win-win scenario that aligns with both environmental and economic objectives.
Kristen	Davis	81 Founders Rd	The farm in question is right across the street from Bright Path (a preschool) and Hebron Avenue School. This farm has been utilized for the purposes of growing crops, selling local crops to the public and other family oriented events during the fall (like corn mazes and halloween fun). To turn this farm into a solar facility, would not only be an eye sore, but a complete disregard for the families and children in the area who utilize the farmers market and farm on a regular basis (and the local farm community). I do not support the development of solar in this area and hope we can continue to support our local farms and maintain Glastonbury's limited open space in the main areas of town.
Erik	Eaton	30 Butternut Dr	Regarding the now vacant lot that was Rose's berry farm: I voice opposition of conversion of this land to a PV generator. I understand the lot is private property, however, I can't help but ask, are there not better land uses to consider? A PV farm does not provide an energy-dense generator to the local economy. Modern solar arrays are an eye sore. Additionally, this project would constrain future flexibility in land use. I urge further review for the property owner and town committee.