

April 25, 2018

Dear Members of the Durham Planning Board,

We want to express our appreciation to the Durham Energy Committee Subcommittee for taking on the difficult and much-needed task of creating a Durham Solar Ordinance. We observed this summer the outcome of what can happen when a town does not have such an ordinance in place. We all support the use of solar energy. We also care deeply about maintaining the scenic quality of our community and its roadways, as well as the character of our neighborhoods. We believe both can and should be able to coexist through the careful consideration of both objectives. Thus, we were pleased to see in the Purpose statement of the proposed Solar Ordinance:

“promote environmental sustainability while protecting the character of rural and scenic lands and the use of productive agricultural lands.”

However, the proposed solar ordinance falls short of meeting this Purpose statement. We are particularly concerned about the *actual visual impact* of the proposed ordinance along our designated scenic roadways and our gateways, regardless of whether a freestanding solar system falls within our residential or commercial zones. From an aesthetic perspective, the use of freestanding solar systems should be evaluated, site by site, based on “what is seen from the road” vs. what zone it happens to be in. A freestanding solar array along Packers Falls Road in the Rural Zone diminishes the scenic, rural character just as much as a freestanding solar array along Mast Road (zoned ORLI), Rt. 4 (zoned both RC and DBP), or Rt. 108 (zoned RB).

We urge you to review every aspect of the proposed ordinance, *visualizing the actual impact* on Durham’s pastoral viewsapes no matter what zone they fall within and with consideration to permitted scale and height. Because one size does not fit all when it comes to placement of freestanding solar systems on individual Durham properties, we urge you to replace the “P”s (Permitted by Right) with “SE”s (Special Exception) unless in backyards or behind buildings. This would allow for each unique situation to be

reviewed individually by the Zoning Board and with the benefit of a community conversation. We also believe that height and setback regulations should be revisited, again with an eye for how such a system will appear from the road.

We urge the Planning Board to ensure that the Solar Ordinance that is adopted meet the Purpose statement stated (above) by the drafters, one that truly reflects balance between two equally worthy objectives.

Signed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>
• Dudley Dudley	25 Woodman Road
• Diana Carroll	54 Canney Road
• Mal Sandberg	15 Langley Road
• Nancy Sandberg	15 Langley Road
• Janet Mackie	180 Piscataqua Road
• Sandy Mackie	180 Piscataqua Road
• Robin Mower	11 Faculty Road
• Beth Olshansky	122 Packers Falls Road
• Andrea Bodo	20 Newmarket Road
• Peter Stanhope	37 Dover Road
• Phil Albright	172 Packers Falls Road
• Anita Freeman	172 Packers Falls Road
• Nancy Webb	23 Woodridge Road
• Ernie Nichols	23 Woodridge Road
• Susan Tanguay	66 Bennett Road
• Joan Drapeau	4 Sullivan Falls Road
• Gay Nardone	8 Falls Way
• Helen Goodman	4 Falls Way

- Raymond Goodman 4 Falls Way
- Jessie McKone 35 Dover Road
- Kathryn Lapkowicz 152 Packers Falls Rd
- Victor Lapkowicz 152 Packers Falls Rd
- Jim Jelmsberg 29 Park Court
- Johanne Jelmsberg 29 Park Court
- Sarah Sherman 179 Packer's Falls Road
- James Calderwood 179 Packer's Falls Road
- Sally Ford 433 Bay Road
- Daniel Ford 433 Bay Road
- Phyllis Heilbronner 51 Mill Pond Road
- John Lowy 17 Thompson Road
- Ree Katrak 565 Bay Road
- Firoze Katrak 565 Bay Road
- Ann Ablowich 253 Packers Falls Road
- Ron Ablowich 253 Packers Falls Road
- Pamela Faltin 7 Constable Road
- Gary Faltin 7 Constable Road
- Zelda Moore 4 Stevens Way
- David Williams 144 Packers Falls Road
- Joyce Williams 144 Packer Falls Road
- Heidi Ely 177 Durham Point Road
- Robert Ely 177 Durham Point Road
- Robert Braile 6 Falls Way
- Holly O. Harris 154 Packers Falls Road
- Vladimir Harris 154 Packers Falls Road
- Annmarie Harris 56 Oyster River Road
- Larry Harris 56 Oyster River Road

- Helga Fickenwirth 92 Packers Falls Road
- Helmut Fickenwirth 92 Packers Falls Road
- Ann Knight 19 Perley Lane
- Janet Vrettos 14 Little John Road
- Nancy B. Harter 247 Packers Falls Road
- Robert D. Harter 247 Packers Falls Road
- John Parry 5 Denbow Road
- Judith Spang 55 Wiswall Road
- Carl Spang 55 Wiswall Road
- Don Brautigam 122 Packers Falls Road
- Lynn Holmes 10 Meserve Road
- Carolyn Puffer 6 Watson Road
- Nancy Aldrich 12 Sullivan Falls Road
- Julie Farrell 8 Little John Road
- Lisa Brady 8 Constable Road
- Alix Handelsman 43 Canney Road
- Katie Fireczuk 4 Daisy Drive
- Michael Fireczuk 4 Daisy Drive
- Bill Drapeau 4 Sullivan Falls Road
- Lesley Smith 31 Garden Lane
- Mark Abramczyk 31 Garden Lane
- Morgan Dudley 193 Packers Falls Road
- Ted Naughton 193 Packers Falls Road
- Steve Burns 20 Newmarket Road