

Dear Planning Board members,

What is the place of aesthetics in town planning? As a long time resident of Durham and an advocate for protecting the scenic vistas on Packers Falls road, I appreciate efforts to maintain the rural character of our town because I believe that living in harmony with our natural environment is both an aesthetically pleasing relationship and a moral obligation.

But what if our planning is based on only the aesthetics of the visible? What if a real, nature-destroying ugliness remains invisible to us and thus is not subject to town planning? I write to ask that you consider balancing the visible and the invisible as you craft a Solar Ordinance for the town of Durham.

Each gallon of fuel oil burned to heat a home produces about 22.4 pounds of carbon dioxide. When sent up the chimney and into our scenic vistas, this invisible gas fills two and a half cubic feet, about the size of one plastic recycling bin. Over the course of a year, an average house in Durham sends about 1000 of these greenhouse gas parcels into the air. Because these 2500 cubic feet of global warming gases are invisible, we don't give much thought to creating an ordinance that would limit such an ugly display of carelessness.

What if we could see the carbon dioxide that is destroying our environment?



Given that we are at a tipping point in our ability to slow a catastrophic warming of the planet, it is imperative that we begin to make visible what has been invisible to us.

In your deliberations about the Solar Ordinance, please act wisely and adopt an aesthetics that includes the unseen, but truly ugly. A solar array reduces our dependence on carbon-based fuels and spares our scenic vistas the toxic ugliness that is destroying the environment. Limiting solar arrays will only increase the real but unseen ugliness of our town.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Lannamann".

John W. Lannamann
156 Packers Falls Rd.
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