



Nancy Lacko <nlacko@townoflitchfield.org>

Silicon Ranch Solar Project Correspondence-R. Viola-68 Wilson Rd. (022421)

1 message

Ron Viola <vmron@yahoo.com>

Wed, Feb 24, 2021 at 10:17 AM

To: nlacko@townoflitchfield.org

Cc: Zoning Admin <zoningadmin@townoflitchfield.org>, 1st Selectman <draap@townoflitchfield.org>, Dominick Thomas <djt@cohen-thomas.com>

Dear Ms. Lacko,

I am Ronald M. Viola (Ron), living at 68 Wilson Rd., Litchfield, CT. 06759.

My Town mailing address is: Trustee Ronald M. Viola, P.O. Box 1134, Litchfield, CT 06759.

I am attaching a Letter of Correspondence to the below officials stating my concerns with the subject Silicon Ranch proposed Solar Project of which I am an abutting homeowner.

Please forward this correspondence to these officials and any other Town official involved in or considering this matter that I may not be aware of.

I am including Ms. Rapp and Mr. Tobin on Cc. as they are emails ID's I know. Mr. Thomas on Cc. is my attorney.

Mr. Mark I. Austin, Chair, Conservation Commission, Town of Litchfield
Mr. Robert T. Blazek, Chair, Inland Wetland Commission, Town of Litchfield
Ms. Carol Bramley, Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission, Town of Litchfield
Mr. John Post, Chair, Sustainable Litchfield Committee, Town of Litchfield.
Ms. Denise Rapp, First Selectwoman, Town of Litchfield
Mr. Dennis P. Tobin, Land Use Administrator, Town of Litchfield

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Please contact me if any official would like to have a discussion with me or needs any questions answered.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter

Best Regards,
Ron Viola

 **Silicon Ranch Solar Project Correspondence-R. Viola-68 Wilson Rd. (022421).pdf**
2746K

From:

Ronald M. Viola
68 Wilson Rd.
Litchfield, CT 06759

February 24, 2021

To:

Mr. Mark I. Austin, Chair, Conservation Commission, Town of Litchfield
Mr. Robert T. Blazek, Chair, Inland Wetland Commission, Town of Litchfield
Ms. Carol Bramley, Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission, Town of Litchfield
Mr. John Post, Chair, Sustainable Litchfield Committee, Town of Litchfield.
Ms. Denise Rapp, First Selectwoman, Town of Litchfield
Mr. Dennis P. Tobin, Land Use Administrator, Town of Litchfield

Subject: Silicon Ranch Litchfield, LLC., Solar Project Proposal on Wilson and Town Farm Roads.

Dear Officials of the Town of Litchfield,

I am writing to you as a homeowner and resident of the Town of Litchfield living at 68 Wilson Rd.

To the best of my knowledge, my property is the largest abutting parcel to the subject proposed solar project at Wilson and Town Farm Roads on the Litchfield side. My lot is ~11 acres of which ~9 acres are dedicated to Open Space including a ~4-acre Conservation Easement directly abutting this project on two sides. My entire West and North property lines will abut this proposed project.

As you were formally notified, Silicon Ranch Litchfield, LLC., (SR) has filed a Petition (1442) to the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) on February 02, 2021 to propose the construction of this solar project on ~212 acres of undeveloped land in both the Town of Litchfield and the City of Torrington. As an abutting homeowner, I have also received the notice of their petition to the CSC.

Since 2017, I have been in communication with SR representatives in good faith and was assured the project would take into account my concerns, though no plans were ever presented to me despite my numerous requests and their offers “to work together” and to “walk my property” many times well before their CSC filing. I was disappointed that SR refused my attorney, Mr. Dominick J. Thomas, Jr.’s, multiple requests to discuss the project and our concerns before filing and they never again offered to

From:

Ronald M. Viola
68 Wilson Rd.
Litchfield, CT 06759

walk my property. Since their filing, Mr. Thomas has contacted the attorneys (Robinson & Cole) representing SR and our requests for more detailed information has been sent with a promise to discuss our concerns and for them to have their experts available during those discussions. We are hopeful these will be productive and cooperative discussions.

As leaders of local boards, commissions, and committees, you are asked to comment to the CSC on your views and concerns of the project and its local impact. I ask you to impress upon the CSC the need for them to consider the impact on the abutters and the need for SR to address those concerns and that you and your respective public entities also perform a full analysis of the project's impacts now that all plans are publicly presented by SR to the CSC in their petition.

Our town tax base and clean energy are very important topics of these times, but so are land values, visual buffers, noise, erosion control, residential safety and privacy, chemical/herbicide runoff and other impacts on abutting landowners and the future health of our now pristine land environment. I am aware the property that I abut is not Open Space and is subject to development in accordance with local zoning, however, the impact and size of this proposed solar project greatly exceeds those permitted uses.

I ask that your comments to the CSC balance benefits and impacts which will result in a project that is better all-around for all residents, abutting landowners, our natural setting and wildlife as well as business development. The decisions that are made today regarding this massive project will impact all town residents abutting or not and this land for generations to come.

Thank you for your service to our town and your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Ronald M. Viola

CC: Mr. Dominick J. Thomas, Jr.