



Vermont Land Trust

CONSERVING LAND FOR THE FUTURE OF VERMONT

May 8, 2014

Paul Hartshorn
Chair, Waitsfield Select Board
Town of Waitsfield
9 Main Street
Waitsfield, VT 05673

8 Bailey Avenue
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 223-5234
(802) 223-4223 fax
www.vlt.org

Re: Support for Municipal Solar Project

REGIONAL OFFICES

Central Vermont
8 Bailey Avenue
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 223-5234

Champlain Valley
P.O. Box 850
Richmond, VT 05477
(802) 434-3079

Northeast Kingdom
P.O. Box 427
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-6089

Southeast Vermont
and Mountain Valley
54 Linden Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301
(802) 251-6008

Southwest Vermont
and Mettowee Valley
10 Furnace Grove Road
Bennington, VT 05201
(802) 442-4915

Mad River Valley
P.O. Box 432
Waitsfield, VT 05673
(802) 496-3690

Dear Paul,

On behalf of the Vermont Land Trust and the Mad River Watershed Conservation Partnership, I am writing to express our support for the Town of Waitsfield's proposed 102 kW solar array project.

For more than 30 years, the Vermont Land Trust, with our partners in the Mad River Watershed Conservation Partnership, has worked closely with the Town of Waitsfield to conserve nearly 2,000 acres of land that is important to the future of the community. During this time, the Town has demonstrated its conservation leadership by supporting and investing in the conservation of productive agricultural land, properties that offer public recreational and educational opportunities, and land with significant natural and riparian resources.

The proposed 102kW solar array project complements the Town's conservation efforts to date and helps to protect the environment, public health and the vitality of our community. In particular, the siting of the array on the town garage parcel ensures that farmland essential to local agriculture will not be impacted. The siting also respects the community's value for Waitsfield's scenic beauty.

The establishment of a solar array that will generate renewable energy for the Town's municipal and educational facilities is a positive step towards community and environmental resiliency during this time of climate change. We applaud the Town's initiative to become one of the first Vermont communities with a "net-zero" town office building. This act of leadership will surely inspire other towns and Vermont's citizens to take similar action for the sake of our shared future.

Sincerely,

Eliza Walker
Mad River Valley Director

