

May 6th, 2014

Maclay Architects
4509 Main Street
Waitsfield, Vermont 05673

Waitsfield Selectboard
Waitsfield Town Office
9 Bridge Street
Waitsfield, VT 05673

Re: Town of Waitsfield Solar Array

Dear Waitsfield Selectboard Members,

I am writing to show my support for the proposed 102 kW solar array to be located on the town's property and will be net-metered to offset energy use by the town's municipal buildings.

This is a unique opportunity to emerge as a leader in supporting renewable energy generation in our community. The town offices have been designed to be a net-zero (or net-zero ready) building. Net-zero means a building that is powered by more renewable energy than it consumes on an annual basis. Approximately 18 kW of the proposed 102 kW solar array will be used to offset the energy required annually to power all of the town office needs.

This net-zero building, coupled with the town's efforts to upgrade the energy efficiency of your municipal buildings, puts Waitsfield in a leadership role in energy planning.

The new town hall will feature a super-insulated envelope with extensive air sealing that creates very low air infiltration rates and reduces the heating requirements of the building. The building is all electric and utilizes air source heat pumps for heating and an energy recovery ventilator for supplying outdoor air efficiently. In addition, daylighting will reduce the electric lighting needs throughout the building, while retaining a scale and aesthetic fitting of the historic village context.

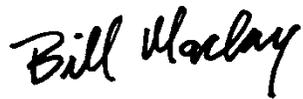
With renewable energy from the 102 kW town solar array, it will be a net producer of energy. The annual energy consumed per square foot of building area (also known as

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the Energy Use Intensity – EUI) will be 4.5 kWh/sf-yr (15.5 kBtu/sf-yr), which will make this one of the lowest energy consuming commercial/institutional buildings in Vermont and the nation. The EUI of a building is similar to the miles per gallon of a car and thus the best metric to compare building's energy performance.

With the installation of the solar system, we can create the first Vermont net-zero town office, as well as likely the first net-zero town office nationally. This will provide long term energy cost stability and financial benefit for the town. It will also serve as a model and example for all towns in Vermont, and will provide positive publicity for the Community Economic Development Fund grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Maclay". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Maclay, AIA, LEED AP