



TOWN OF WAITSFIELD

May 7, 2014

Waitsfield Selectboard
Attn: Valerie Capels, Town Administrator
9 Bridge Street
Waitsfield, VT 05673

Dear Selectboard members,

We are writing in support of the Town of Waitsfield's grant application to fund the ground mount, 102kW photovoltaic solar array at the Town Garage property. Waitsfield's Town Plan ("Town Plan") encourages the use of renewable energy resources, including solar, versus fossil fuels and nuclear energy.¹

The proposed array is similar to a project on which the Waitsfield Energy Committee worked diligently in 2010. The Energy Committee and this Commission continue to support a municipal renewable energy installation that will help offset energy costs.²

The Planning Commission has developed specific community standards for energy facility siting and development in Waitsfield that are to be considered in the municipal review of applications before the Public Service Board and in the siting and development of municipal generation facilities.³ The proposed array meets these renewable energy guidelines in the Town Plan. We encourage the developers to adhere to the proposed site plan, maintaining as much of the existing vegetation and screening as possible by limiting the tree clearing and selective cutting to the two areas noted in the application.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Steve Shea, Waitsfield Planning Commission Chair
Todd White, Vice Chair
Kari Dolan

Ted Laskaris
Brian Voigt
Stan Ward

¹ See, generally, Chapter 9. Energy, Waitsfield Town Plan (2012-2017), pages 63-79. See also Chapter 9.D Renewable Energy, *Id.* at page 66.

² See "Solar" Section, *Id.* at page 67; see also "Renewable Energy" Section, Chapter 9.E Energy Programs and Initiatives, *Id.* at page 68.

³ See Chapter 9.F Facility Siting & Development, *Id.* at page 70; see also Chapter 9.G Waitsfield Community Standards, *Id.* at pages 70-74.