

October 19, 2021  
David Johnson and Johnna Serydyski  
173 Skunk Hill Road  
Hope Valley, RI 02832

Dear Hopkinton Planning Board,

We purchased our home at 173 Skunk Hill Road, which had been vacant, but did not move in for several months later, in June of this year. It seems prior to our occupying our home, the plans were already drawn for this Skunk Hill Solar Project. Arguably, our property shares the largest linear property line with the project, and the installation design is closest to our property, that to any other abutters. I would say we stand to bear the brunt of the impact from the project.

A quick look at the topography, or a drive down the road, one can clearly see that despite the tree line, most views from our windows, both on the ground and second level, will provide a view of the solar fields. As the plans currently stand, there is no proposed screen for our shared property line. Recent storms have taken down some of the existing trees on our side, and most of the existing vegetation is deciduous. For these reasons we agree with the other abutters' opinion that plans for vegetation screening should not be based on existing vegetation on the abutters properties.

The ecological and economic impacts of these projects are only in their infant stages as our experiences with solar are relatively new. According to a study by economists at the University of RI, homes within a mile of a solar installation declined by 1.7%, and homes within a tenth of a mile went down by 7%. Largest impacts they found were in suburban communities with a solar project built on a farm or forested property, where housing prices within a mile dropped by 5%. As the installations age, property values will continue to decrease, virtually making them worthless as the installation becomes obsolete and potentially abandoned. This will be a great burden to our town as tax revenues will decrease, and the potential cost to mitigate, or litigate will burden the town.

We hope these concerns regarding the Skunk Hill Road Solar development will be considered. We object to this project, and respectfully ask the town to reconsider this current proposal. Of the nearly 100 acres, the design is too close to our property. Besides our personal objections, the town must fully explore the ecological and economic impacts from this project. If the town decides to continue in the development of this project we hope our concerns will be recognized and at the least, a vegetative screen will be put into the plans, as it was for the other abutters.

Sincerely,  
Johnna Serydyski and David Johnson