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Executive Director: Joseph A. DeLong

June 26, 2017

Commissioner Steven Reviczky
CT Department of Agriculture
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 701
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Commissioner Reviczky:

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 96% of Connecticut's population.

As a representative voice for local government, CCM would like to offer its full support for the Town of Simsbury's recent letter to the Commissioners of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and Department of Agriculture, requesting a comprehensive environmental review by the Departments of the Town's solar array project which seeks to be sited on farmland.

During the 2017 General Assembly Legislative session CCM supported SB 943 (PA 17-218) which would restrict the construction of solar photovoltaic facilities (solar facilities) of two or more megawatts on certain categories of land, core forest and prime farmland, as defined in the Public Act (effective July 1, 2017), by removing a requirement that the Connecticut Siting Council approve such facilities, creating a rebuttable presumption that they are not environmentally compatible.

CCM views the Town of Simsbury's request as consistent with the intent of the legislation described above which was enacted with overwhelming support from both Chambers of the General Assembly. It is for that reason that CCM respectfully requests that the Departments perform such comprehensive environmental review, ahead of the Public Act's effective date, as a show of support for the new law's intent and sound environmental policy.

Regards,



Joe DeLong

Executive Director

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