



# Town of Shelburne, Vermont

CHARTERED 1763

P.O. BOX 88 5420 SHELBURNE ROAD SHELBURNE, VT 05482

Clerk/Treasurer  
(802) 985-5116

Town Manager  
(802) 985-5111

Zoning & Planning  
(802) 985-5118

Assessor  
(802) 985-5115

Recreation  
(802) 985-5110

FAX Number  
(802) 985-9550

Senate and House Natural Resources and Energy Committees  
Vermont State House  
Montpelier, VT 05633

March 23, 2014

**Re: Town of Shelburne Testimony for the March 24<sup>th</sup> Joint Public Hearing on Renewable Energy Siting Before the House and Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committees**

Dear Senate and House Natural Resources & Energy Committees:

The Town of Shelburne's position regarding the siting of Renewable Energy facilities boils down to this: The permitting system is overwhelmingly one-sided, and a more-fair balancing of interests must be achieved.

According to data provided by the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, there are almost 70 solar energy installations in Shelburne and nearly 2,800 across the entire state. The state's goal of increasing the availability of renewable energy and decreasing reliance on fossil fuels clearly is being realized.

However, many people—including many residents of Shelburne, which is now home to more than 2,700 kW of generating capacity (or roughly 1 kW per household)—feel that the success of those developing solar energy projects has come at others' expense.

To address how existing law should be changed, Shelburne believes that municipalities must have greater say in the Section 248 review process. More specifically, municipalities must have the authority to (i) request technical details regarding the proposal; (ii) require the PSB (or PSB staff) to conduct a public hearing in their community whether or not such technical information is provided; (iii) appear and participate in any application seeking a certificate of public good; and (iv) finally, municipalities also must have substantial deference shown to any specific, mandatory provisions contained in their Comprehensive Plan.

Sincerely,

Joe Colangelo,  
Town Manager

Dean Pierce,  
Director of Planning & Zoning

Cc: Shelburne Selectboard  
Shelburne Planning Commission  
Representative Kate Webb  
Representative Joan Lenes  
Vermont League of Cities & Towns