



# FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE

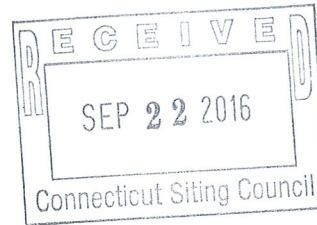
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September 22, 2016

Ms. Melanie Bachman, Acting Director  
Connecticut Siting Council  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051



Eversource Energy  
c/o Mr. Brian T. Henebry, Esq.  
Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey, LLP  
P.O. Box 1110  
Waterbury, CT 06721

Re: Docket No. 468 – Southwest Connecticut Reliability Project

To Members of the Commission and Eversource Management:

I write to you today on behalf of the many residents of the Town of Bethel who will suffer adverse impacts to their property values and quality of life as a result of the above referenced project. In numerous areas along the proposed transmission route, the project will require substantial clear cutting of hundreds of mature trees near the boundary of the easement area. Even though the trees are within the company right-of-way, their removal will have a severe visual impact on adjacent residential properties and will degrade their value.

Let me add that the Town recognizes the need to improve the supply and reliability of energy delivery to Southwestern Connecticut as a key component to our way of life as well as to our region's economic vitality. We do not dispute the fact that the public will derive benefits from the project. However, we impress upon the Company and the Council the importance of taking extraordinary steps to minimize the inconvenience and economic impact to the residents most affected. To accomplish this goal, we ask that project utilize both east and west sides of the right-of-way, rather than placing the new transmission line along the east side only, as proposed. Assuming this type of design is technically feasible, moving the line in this manner would significantly reduce the project's impact on certain properties.

For example, I call your attention to the attached photograph. This view is looking north along Berkshire Blvd. in Bethel's Berkshire Industrial Park. The existing transmission lines are visible, and there is a prominent tree line to the right (east) of the line. To the immediate east of this tree line is a quiet residential neighborhood along Birch Drive. The tree line provides a visual barrier as well as an effective sound buffer between the residential area and the heavy truck traffic in the industrial park. It is quite clear that removal of this tree line

will have a very significant impact on quality of life in this neighborhood. We recognize and appreciate that Eversource will provide plantings to replace some of this disturbance. However, it will take many years for new plantings to mature, leaving a raw, exposed area open to view. Moving the line to the west side of the existing easement area would avoid the disruption and expense to the Company.

There are other areas along the route that may yield similar benefits. On behalf of the residents of Bethel, I respectfully ask that the Council and the Company give this proposal due consideration.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Knickerbocker  
First Selectman

CC: Board of Selectmen  
Board of Finance  
Planning & Zoning Commission  
M. Lawlor





View looking north from Berkshire Blvd., Berkshire Industrial Park, Bethel, CT