

Brooklyn Agriculture Commission

March 1, 2017

To: Town of Brooklyn Selectmen; Board of Finance; Conservation Commission; Planning and Zoning Commission

From: Town of Brooklyn Agriculture Commission

Subject: Property Taxes Collected From Solar Farms

The Quinebaug Solar Project proposed on privately-owned land in Brooklyn is an energy generation project that will cover with solar panels important agricultural land currently farmed by a local dairy producer. The Project will pay millions of dollars in taxes over its lifetime, without requiring public infrastructure or services from the town. This income is at the expense of losing food producing land during the lifespan of the project.

The Brooklyn Agriculture Commission proposes that the tax revenue from panels covering land currently used for agricultural production be deposited into the Town's Open Space Fund to be used for future land conservation, including the Purchase of Development Rights of town farmland.

Clean energy is an admirable mission for our society, but local food production is even more critical when the future rainfall and future transportation costs are so variable. With this new development threat to food production, the need for future farmland protection is critical and requires an Open Space Fund that can accomplish this town goal, expressed in our Plan of Conservation and Development.



Lou Brodeur, Chairperson



Legend

- Towns
- Windham CLU
- Streets

Farmland Soils

- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Farmland Soils - Locally Important

Prepared with assistance from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service



92 Acres Cropland in Brooklyn

