

VIA EMAIL  
Concord Climate Action Network

20 September 2010

To: Concord Solar Committee  
Cc: Concord Sustainable Energy Committee, Chris Whelan  
Re: Ammendolia Land and its proposed use for a solar PV array

The Concord Climate Action Network (ConcordCAN) wishes to express its opposition to the use of the Ammendolia Land on Old Bedford Road for use as a solar PV generating facility. This position was adopted by a unanimous vote of ConcordCAN's Steering Committee at its meeting on 15 September 2010.

As an organization devoted to reducing society's dependence on fossil fuels and reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions, Concord CAN is generally enthusiastic in endorsing the development of renewable energy sources like ground-based solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays for electricity. However, renewable energy projects should never be considered in isolation from other needs.

Productive local agricultural land, in particular, fulfills an important human need for food – a need that will be of even greater importance in the future when fossil fuels for food transport are less abundant and more expensive. The Ammendolia Land, despite early reports to the contrary, has been shown by dozens of community gardeners and a local commercial farmer to be a flourishing source of local food and a nexus of community involvement. To sacrifice this vital resource in favor of a very modest source of electricity would be a step backward in energy management and sustainability. The Ammendolia Land's best and highest use is as it is used today: for producing food.

ConcordCAN encourages town government to continue to seek and implement other renewable energy facilities. We also encourage the town to vigorously promote energy efficiency – the “first fuel” that is almost always the easiest and least costly energy option to implement.

We recognize that, like any important endeavor, transitioning to a post-carbon energy future often requires tradeoffs and difficult decisions. If our organization can be of any assistance, we stand ready to help in any way we can.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Concord Climate Action Network

Steering Committee:

Hasso Ewing – Chair, Bob Andrews, Debbie Barr, Enid Boasberg, Lori Gill-Pazaris, Berni Jenkins, Bob Lawson, Janet Lawson, Mark Myles, Peter Nichol, Emily Wheeler, Mary White, Garret Whitney