

While I support the development of carbon-neutral solar and wind power in general, I am also concerned about the loss of farmland in our state, and am grateful to Senator Claxton for introducing this resolution. As someone who has a small hayfield with one solar collector in it (for personal household use), I have been approached by a solar developer to convert more of my hayfield to solar energy production. While I strongly support the development of solar micro-grid systems, at the same time I want to keep my hayfield. In this case, I said I would consider a few solar arrays, as long as the majority of the field was reserved for hay, for both scenic and agricultural reasons, but the solar company declined to pursue the matter, saying that the project at the small scale I would allow would not be worth their investment. I don't think, as a solar supporter, that I was behaving in a "NIMBY" manner in this case, but rather was taking into account the importance of balancing the need to conserve agricultural lands with the need for developing carbon neutral sources of electricity. I think the instant resolution is well-considered so as not to obstruct solar development, but rather to prioritize its development on lands which are not particularly well-suited to agriculture and/ or were previously developed (which in my view would be the best option). The resolution's goal of preserving agricultural lands and those lands which are prime habitats while also encouraging prudent, environmentally appropriate solar development is a good one so that, in trying to address one urgent problem, we don't create other unintended problems.