To: Wareham Planning Board Committee November 28th, 2022

From: Eric Lintala

Re: Final Comment, Fearing Hill Solar Project

On November 16th the Conservation Committee Members all voted NO on the passage of the Fearing Hill Solar Project. There major concern was the direction and re-direction of water into the watershed. We all have a good understanding of the present environment on Fearing Hill and how the water moves and flows down in all directions. It even creates some flooding issues at times along Fearing Hill Road. If the solar project is built, we can see on there plans how the water flows off the northern solar panels into the watershed, we can also see on there plans a 6” pipe in a 24”x 24” stone trench starting at the top of the ridge in the upper north western corner then sweeps down arcing across the south side of the hill ending in the south eastern corner diverting that water into the watershed. The natural flow of water that has existed on the hill will be interupted and changed which will have a profound affect on the watershed. There is only one good solution to the water issue on Fearing Hill, and that is to leave it as it is.

In the Amherst Bulletin, November 25th, 2022 a major article focused on drinking water titled EARTH MATTERS: FORESTS TO FAUCETS: PROTECTING DRINKING WATER FOR EVERYONE. Quote “Here and across the country, the water we rely on often comes from the forest. In fact forestlands provide over half of our nations drinking water supply. That means we can look to forest conservation as one of the most important ways to protect our drinking water: both quality and availability.” “In our region,(being western massachusetts) comminities often conserve forests not only in their own town but in neighboring towns, specifically to protect their public drinking water sources. These projects focus on watersheds- areas of land that absorb rain and snow, which drain through connected streams, rivers and lakes” end quote.

As we have learned more about large scale mounted solar installations we have learned to be more cautious, to be more sensitive and understanding to the many environmental concerns and the concerns to our residential neighborhoods. And as for the recorded and known cultural, historical and archaeological elements that do exist in our town of wareham, we should not forget that we should also be more aware and less dismissive of

the possible cultural, historical, and archaeological elements that may exist.

The Solar Bylaw Committee has re-writtin Section 590 of the zoning bylaws, which is now before the state attorney general for decision. In it, it states, to better protect the environment and the general public in the town of wareham. It also states, and to support responsible solar development. Let those last four words be what we move forward on, Support Responsible Solar Development.