

Kaitlin Wright Esposito

From: City Council
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 8:15 AM
To: Tim Jordan; Tim Jordan
Cc: Kaitlin Wright Esposito
Subject: FW: Lithium Battery Storage, Hilldale Ave site Formal opposition to BESS Overlay expansion

I'm blind copying everyone on this email rather than sending separate emails to each Councilor, which is how I've been doing it. This helps keep things a little easier on my end and avoids any accidental 'Reply All' responses

Lori A. Robertson
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SEP 15 AM 8:41
HAVCITYCLERK

From: Diane Desjardins <diandgeo2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 7:56 PM
To: City Council <CityCouncil@haverhillma.gov>
Subject: Fw: Lithium Battery Storage, Hilldale Ave site Formal opposition to BESS Overlay expansion

Warning! External Email. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on any links.

Dear Council President and Council members:

My name is Diane Desjardins, and I am a resident of 28 Country Meadow Road, which is in close proximity to the proposed Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) zoning overlay district into the Upper Hilldale corridor. Upper Hilldale already has a plethora of industrial and commercial businesses, causing high levels of truck traffic, with NETTS trucks, Republic waste trucks, and numerous tractor trailer trucks parking trailers in large paved lots. There is constant noise generated by this activity. We also have a large solar energy farm right next to St. Joseph's cemetery.

My concern regarding the possibility of a BESS lithium battery storage facility is many fold.

This facility was first proposed on land where Dutton Airport was once located, a spot which was fairly remote from houses and businesses. As you know, the site was found to be near an area where Blanding's turtles live, and because they are endangered, the site cannot be used. Are the people who live near the Hilldale site not more important than turtles?

A site in Bradford was also proposed. It was decided that since there is farmland nearby, it would not be a good place for this facility. Then Hilldale Ave was proposed.

I believe that the proposed site on Hilldale Avenue is detrimental to existing farmland, that being Syrbney Farms, as well its' proximity to Little River, which runs near the parcel, the wetlands that are throughout the area, and the nearby businesses and houses. We also have Amtrak and freight trains running close to the proposed site. This site is also close to our border with Plaistow and Atkinson, NH. This site is not large enough for the proposed facility, it needing 20 acres where there are only 14 acres. I know that a hearing is scheduled for the September 15th Council meeting and I would request that the council take the very real concern of those of us who live here seriously.

I would also question as to how these batteries are going to be stored. I have read that they are stored in metal containers. Are these metal containers going to be stored in a climate controlled building with adequate fire suppression for this type of fire? Does our fire department have the equipment needed should this facility have a fire? Are our firefighters trained in fighting this type of fire? Do we even have enough equipment and personnel? If they are just going to be large metal containers placed on a cement pad what is to stop this from perhaps becoming a Superfund Site in the future due to inadequate knowledge of long term effects or lack of proper maintenance.

Since these facilities are newer, not much long term research is available. I do not think that potential risks to the people living nearby, nor the factual noise pollution these sites generate are in the best interests of the citizens of the City. I do not believe that this is a good fit for Hilldale Avenue nor for the entire City of Haverhill. I have lived in the Hilldale Ave area since 1983. I am saddened to see that the development without regard to the long term effects to this area are not being considered with careful consideration.

I respectfully ask that I receive acknowledgement of this email letter to you with your thoughts, explanations and other information pertinent to this matter.

I also request that my opposition be entered into the official record for the September 15, 2026 Haverhill City Council meeting.

Attached also is the email sent to my Ward 6 Councilor, Michael Mc Gonagle, sent on August 31, 2026, to which I have received no response from him as of this date.

With regards,

Diane E Desjardins
28 Country Meadow Rd
Haverhill, MA 01832

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Diane Desjardins" <diandgeo2002@yahoo.com>

To: "macanddrealty@gmail.com" <macanddrealty@gmail.com>

Cc:

Sent: Mon, Aug 31, 2026 at 2:01 PM

Subject: Lithium Battery Storage, Hilldale Ave site

Dear Councilor McGonagle:

As a resident of Ward 6 in Haverhill Massachusetts, I am writing this to you with regard to the lithium battery storage facility being located on Hilldale Avenue. I believe that to have this facility on that location is detrimental to the people who live in the area as well as the people who live in Atkinson New Hampshire and Plaistow New Hampshire. I do not believe that enough research has been done with regard to storage of such volatile material, as well as impact to groundwater, Little River, and our natural resources. I also would like to know how our fire department would be able to contain a fire should this be built at that location. As I've seen many times on news reports showing electric car fires, in most cases the fire just burns and burns until it runs out of fuel to burn. I do not think that our fire department has the equipment needed for this type of business. I would also question as to how these batteries are going to be stored. I have read that they will be put in metal containers. Are these metal containers going to be stored in a climate controlled building with adequate fire suppression for this type of fire? If they are just going to be large metal containers placed on the ground what is to stop this from becoming a Superfund Site due to inadequate storage. How much research has been done with regard to how these batteries break down? I do not believe that this is a good business to be located anywhere in the city of Haverhill. I respectfully ask that you do more research and that this is not decided in a quick manner. I believe that the residents living within the city of Haverhill should have much more input as to this type of business being located here. I hope that you will take this letter to heart and ask your constituency their thoughts on having this located in Ward 6, and also anywhere else in Haverhill.

I thank you for your time and attention to this matter and look forward to hearing from you with your thoughts.

Best regards,

Diane E Desjardins
28 Country Meadow Road
Haverhill, Massachusetts 01832