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Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 8:33 AM

To: Planning & Zoning Commission Members <p&zcommissionmembers@southington.org>; Maryellen Edwards <edwardsm@southington.org>; David Lavallee <lavalleed@southington.org>; Matt Reimondo <reimondom@southington.org>

Subject: Opposition to Clearcutting for Development at 347, 349 and 389 Marion Ave.

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To the Southington Planning and Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission, and Planning and Zoning Staff:

I write to express my concern about the 11 acres of habitat loss that would result from approving the application of LePage Homes Inc. and Marion Avenue Associates to clearcut the land at 347, 349 and 389 Marion Ave.

Given the fragile state of the planet we need to preserve habitat, not destroy more of it. This is not a matter of aesthetics or recreational opportunities. You need those trees that the developer would mindlessly bulldoze to keep absorbing the excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere that's causing one natural disaster after another. Woodlands also provide cooling effects, help protect against floods, and support clean drinking water. One acre of forest absorbs twice the CO2 produced by an average car in a year.

To those who think, big deal--it's just 11 acres, that's exactly the problem. Plenty of other people think the same thing. That's how Connecticut lost 115,200 acres of forested land and 39,680 acres of agricultural fields to development from 1985 to 2015 (See [The Connecticut battle between conservation and sprawl](#) by Tom Condon, June 11, 2022). To keep bulldozing down the resources that protect and sustain us is reckless, even suicidal.

The UN has called this moment a "code red for humanity" that we are just sleepwalking through. Reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change show that the climate situation is far worse and deteriorating faster than we expected, and that the small window to act is closing fast.

The latest extreme weather disaster, Hurricane Ian, sends the climate message loud and clear. We could be next. I respectfully urge the commission and the town to lead with a sustainability ethic, make the conservation part of the POCD an urgent priority, and make every effort to preserve natural habitat rather than destroy it. If we must build, then let's clean up blighted, unused property and brownfields and build there instead. Let's be part of the solution, not part of the problem. We're running out of time to get it right.

Thank you,

Kelly Kennedy