



Town of Monroe  
Planning and Zoning Commission  
7 Fan Hill Road  
Monroe, CT 06468

October 30, 2020

CC: Mr. George Benson  
Director of Planning, Town of Newtown  
Newtown Municipal Center  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470

RE: RAA-2020-04 File #1011E - SB2 District, Petition for Proposed Zoning Text Amendments

Commission:

We are writing to comment on the proposed Town of Monroe Zone Text Amendment. The Pootatuck Watershed Association (PWA) is an environmental organization with the mission to protect and preserve the Pootatuck River, its drainage basin and its underlying aquifer as a recreational resource and as a source of safe, clean drinking water for the benefit of the people of Newtown, Connecticut, now and for generations to come. While the Word “Pootatuck” appears in our name, the PWA has interest and has conducted water quality sampling studies in all the watersheds in Newtown including the Halfway.

We note that this application will impact the Stevenson Lumber site which is close to and drains into the Halfway River, the boundary between Monroe and Newtown in the area. The Pootatuck Watershed Association has been involved in monitoring water quality in the Halfway for the last 15 years and find that the water quality there is the best of any stream in Newtown. We use the Halfway River as the “clean” comparison for our water sampling.

We are also aware that the Halfway contains a reproducing natural population of wild cold-water fish species.

Given the water quality and biodiversity of the Halfway River, we feel that many of the uses the proposed zone changes would be totally inappropriate for the Stevenson site and its discharges into the Halfway River. The proposed uses for commercial parking, automotive repair, vehicle

storage, a waster transfer station, or a materials storage yard pose a direct risk from site runoff to the Halfway.

The Halfway is a relatively undeveloped watershed and should be protected. We strongly encourage the Town of Monroe respond “NO” to this new zone proposal.

Thank you for your consideration. Should there be any questions I can be contacted at 203-470-2952.

Joseph Hovious  
Vice President, Pootatuck Watershed  
Association