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**Date:** June 15, 2021 at 7:27:00 PM EDT

**To:** "Wrinn, Michael" <[Michael.Wrinn@wiltonct.org](mailto:Michael.Wrinn@wiltonct.org)>

**Subject:** Agenda Item 21-05-06 - 70 Ridgefield Road

I am writing in support of the variance for Wilton Congregational Church, 70 Ridgefield Road, to be permitted to install an emergency generator as requested in agenda item 21-05-06.

I have followed the proposed emergency generator with great interest for several reasons. As owner of the Winton House in Historic District #2 and the former Chair of the Wilton Historic District & Historic Property Commission, I appreciate the challenge of adding structures while preserving the feel of the district. As a leader of the church during prolonged power outages, and specifically following tropical storm Sandy, I remember the challenges providing services to the community as an official warming station when we could not heat the building. We provided meals, bathrooms and charging stations to residents without power, but our only source of heat was an old fireplace. I further believe we are the only neighbor from whose property the proposed generator is visible.

I am fully in support of the church adding the generator. I am aware that they willingly tripled the cost of their project to accommodate the requests of the Historic District & Historic Property Commission and believe those changes are sufficient to protect the character of this district. I know the proposed footprint is several times larger than the actual generator due to the soundproofing. I also recognize that this is an emergency generator, so that the generator will specifically run during times of need within the Town of Wilton. Our home gets electricity from the same power line as the church, so I am painfully aware when the church loses power and have installed a generator for our property. I can see no legitimate reason to deny the reasonable request for a variance to install this emergency equipment.

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