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11/29/18

Dear Mr. Ingalsbe and The Town Board,

I have attended the town meetings in regards to the proposed Solar Project in Farmington and I feel this project akin to opening Pandora's Box... one massive Solar "Farm" if lead to another and another...

Large Scale Solar "Farms" are in their infancy and not enough research has been done to address the long term sequences and impact of these operations. But enough has been done to raise red flags for both nature and communities in which they are placed.

Farmington needs to protect our people, our land, and resources for both now and for the future.

I said Monday night at the meeting, we are in a waterfowl habitat area including large flocks of Canadian geese and other water fowl. Conservation groups have named these massive solar operations as "mega traps". The birds attempt to land on what they think is water due to the reflective property of the panels. Not only does the bird die, but the damage to the panel upon impact allows water to enter and leech hazardous chemicals into the ground... and eventually wells. This wouldn't happen

I do not believe this project will leave us unscathed. The residents expect you and others on the board to be our voice. At the meeting the subject was brought about not using viable farm land - alternative locations must be found. I'm not against solar - just massive projects with such a tremendous impact. Research suggests these 'farms' alter temperature, and runoff, and compaction of soil. Chemicals used in cleaning panels can also be dangerous.

Once Farmington opens the door it only leaves us vulnerable to a rush of such operations or worse yet to concentrated Solar Power Systems (CSP) which is another nightmare that could be waiting down the road. And in the end - who benefits?... not the people or the land or the wildlife... only those looking to make a buck... a big buck.

Again, as I said at the meeting. No one truly owns the land. We are stewards of it and entrusted with its care for only as long as we live. What will we pass on to those who follow us. Do you... when someone can want to look back even

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"so sorry" ... all the sorrys in the world can't do the nightmare that lay ahead for this agricultural district and its people.

I'm enclosing sources on where to look for the information I discussed in this letter. Has the DEC and Conservation Groups been involved in any of this? not they should be. There's a reason other areas have nixed these projects down. Please do the research and lay this project until the facts, all the facts are in. hopefully we can stop this dangerous venture.

N. CARDI, CORNELL.EDU - LARGE SCALE SOLAR INFO

ACK & VEATCH - IMPACT OF SOLAR ENERGY IS AN

EMERGING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE

CLIMATE CENTRAL - SUSTAINABILITY, SOLAR FARMS

THREATEN BIRDS by JOHN LUPTON

TPS//WWW.BIRD LIFE.ORG - BIRD LIFE MIGRATORY

SOARING BIRDS

TP//IOP.SCIENCE.IOP.ORG/10.1088/1748-9326/11/7/074011

SOLAR PARK MICROCLIMATE AND VEGETATION

MANAGEMENT EFFECTS ON GRASSLAND CARBON CYCLING

TP://SOLARES.AN.GOV GUIDE ENVIRONMENT

SOLAR ENERGY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

## Local impact considerations:

The potential impacts listed below are not relevant to every site. These topics are sometimes raised as concerns in solar development planning documents.

### ↓ During construction

- Soil erosion and compaction;
- Nuisance noise and dust;
- Tax penalties associated with loss of agricultural exemption for converted land.

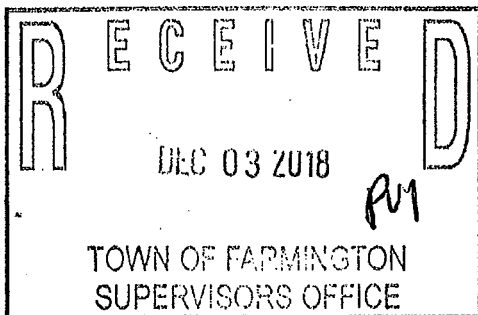
### \* ↓ During operation

- Runoff issues, including contamination by herbicides or cleaning agents used on site, soil erosion, and interruption to surrounding drainage;
- Shading of neighboring crops;
- Reduced habitat for wildlife;
- Habitat fragmentation from fencing;
- Introduction of invasive plants or pests;
- Risk of increased taxes, decreased price of electricity, or change in solar regulations during a multi-decade lease;
- Glare from panels interfering with drivers or quality of the view-shed;
- Impact on local property values;
- Aesthetic concerns, if the solar farm is located in a scenic area;
- Restrictions on landowner access to and use of the project area and surrounding land (particularly if the development took place on agricultural land);
- Reduction in land available for other uses (e.g., rental as farmland);
- Technical or economic obsolescence of equipment (e.g., in the event of a breakthrough in solar technology or a change in renewable energy policies);
- Impact of electromagnetic fields on health (there is little evidence of harm from magnetic and electrical fields associated with solar electricity infrastructure, but this subject is frequently raised by community members and groups skeptical of solar power).

### ↓ Decommissioning and long-term impacts

- Removal of solar panel foundations;
- Soil erosion and compaction during decommissioning process;
- Incomplete restoration of project area and access roads to prior use;
- Abandonment of obsolete or damaged equipment by the owner (e.g., in the event of bankruptcy).

NOTE:  
this also was  
brought up  
at the meeting



Marilyn Fair  
984 Stafford Rd.  
Shortsville, N.Y. 14548

1-585-289-8320

## Background Information

*Below we list ideal site characteristics and local impact considerations based on several discussions with developers and key participants in solar siting over the past year. These "realities" have played an important role in shaping the research priorities discussed above.*

### Ideal site characteristics:

*Land parcels with many or all of the characteristics below may be particularly desirable to commercial solar developers. This list does not take into account local regulations and incentives to encourage development of previously developed or less valuable land.*

#### Amenable topography and physical characteristics:

- Flat land (can develop up to a 20% grade);
- SW orientation if sloped;
- Few or no trees (clearing trees is expensive and can provoke controversy);
- No wetlands or floodplains;
- Deep bedrock (shallow bedrock makes PV foundations more expensive and complex);
- Soil type (ideal soil is firm and compacted, but does not contain very large gravel or buried rock);
- Previously undeveloped (building a solar farm on a brownfield site typically requires a lengthier permitting process and may require the developer to remediate prior contamination or modify the site extensively before construction);

#### Easy grid interconnection:

- Near 3-phase transmission line (ideally less than 2000 feet) with spare capacity and appropriate voltage
- Close to electrical substation (reducing transmission losses);
- Stiff electrical system in the area of interconnection (solar farm interconnection will not cause harmful variations in voltage);

#### Adequate insulation:

- High total annual sunlight;
- Low seasonal variation;

#### Regional characteristics:

- Close to customers;
- High regional price of electricity;
- Pro-solar policies at the local and county level;
- Low local taxes;
- Low land values and lease expectations;

#### Parcel characteristics:

- Road access for construction and maintenance;
- No zoning restrictions, height restrictions, or other local regulations that would interfere with construction or maintenance;
- Large parcels or contiguous ownership that lower assembly and transaction costs.