

Petition to halt the proposed solar farms located and surrounding the village of Lynchburg, Ohio

To the Honorable Ohio Representatives - Sponsors and Co-Sponsors of HB118.

Sponsors - Craig S. Riedel, Dick Stien,

Co-Sponsors - Gary Click, Rodney Creech, Jon Cross, P. Scott Lipps, Riordan T. McClain, Jena Powell, Bill Seitz, D. J. Swearingen, Shane Wilkin.

To the Honorable Ohio Senators - Sponsor and Co-Sponsors of Sb52.

Sponsor – Senator Bill Reineke, Senator Rob McColley, **Co-Sponsors: SENATORS** – George F. Lang, Senator Michael A. Rulli, Senator Tim Schaffer, Senator Jerry C. Cirino, Senator Andrew O. Brenner, Senator Kirk Schuring.

The Solar projects possess a threat to the well-being of residents, including financial security and the right to fully enjoy the property we own, without suffering such devastating destruction of the peace, beauty, and harmony of our community which will result from the solar farms.

WE ARE ASKING FOR OUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON THIS ISSUE!

The proposed solar farms surrounding the Village of Lynchburg will impact the local environment in negative ways.

Concerns range from visual impacts to property devaluation, noise, drinking water quality supply, unmanaged drainage systems, health and safety.

The residents are requesting the appropriate governmental officials, in response to concerns raised by the residents, to halt all construction of solar farms and to protect the land from any future proposed projects concerning solar panel energy.

Concerns:

Visual Impact - Like any proposed structure, concerns can be raised over the visual impact a solar development will have on its surroundings. To construct a solar farm, numerous panels must be installed. This alters the landscape in practical and aesthetic ways. The land can no longer be used for anything but power generation for years to come. The reflective panels may not be personally attractive to some people. The panels, once installed, can also alter local habitats and affect wildlife in negative ways.

Reflections from the Panels - Panel reflection is possibly the most common safety concern raised for solar developments and is commonly referred to as ‘glint and glare’ concerns. Solar panels are designed to absorb as much light as possible and reflect as little as possible. Many modern commercial panels are NOT ‘anti-glare’ to minimize reflections further.

Noise - Concerns over noise can be expressed for a solar development. Any issues would most likely be constrained to locations in very close proximity to the inverters. Sound equals to generator like noise. In order to provide a significant amount of electrical energy, solar farms require large tracts of

land. Eastern states have abundant space and sunshine, but these areas are also natural habitats that support wildlife. For example, environmental reports underestimated the number of wild animals that would be displaced by the large Solar Generating Systems. Many solar farms also came under scrutiny when an increasing number of bird deaths were reported on its premises. Many of their wings had been melted or burned off by heat from the solar farm's mirrors. Also, the fields proposed support herds of deer. With the proposed fields there will be no way the deer can roam which logically would affect the hunters in this area.

Property Devaluation - The solar farms would devalue residents properties due to present health risks from the installation, electromagnetic exposure, visual impact, solar panels glare, drinking water supply, poor water drainage management, continuous noise during the solar production (generator like noise), and habitat degradation. No matter the excuse, the visual picture of these panels will lower property values because the majority of buyers would not want to live near or next to them.

Electromagnetic Short & Long Term Health Effects - A study of real-world exposure to non-ionizing radiation from magnetic fields in pregnant women found a significantly higher rate of miscarriage, providing new evidence regarding their potential health risks, according to the World Health Association. There are established biological effects from acute exposure at high levels that are explained by recognized biophysical mechanisms. External ELF magnetic fields induce electric fields and currents in the body which, at very high field strengths, cause nerve and muscle stimulation and changes in nerve cell excitability in the central nervous system. Potential long-term effects: Much of the scientific research examining long-term risks from ELF magnetic field exposure has focused on childhood leukemia. In 2002, IARC published a monograph classifying ELF magnetic fields as "possibly carcinogenic to humans".

Human Health Risks - While solar power remains a more environmentally friendly form of energy production than fossil fuel sources, it is not completely free of hazards. Toxic chemicals, including hydrochloric acid and sulfuric acid, are used to clean the surface of semiconductors during PV cell production. The cells themselves contain materials that are harmful to people and the environment if improperly thrown away; these include gallium arsenide and cadmium telluride. Silicon dust produced by the PV cell manufacturing process is also harmful to people if inhaled.

Fire Safety - The possibility of fires resulting from or intensified by PV systems may trigger concern among the general public as well as among firefighters.

Habitat Degradation - The impact that solar farms have on individual species can send ripples throughout entire ecosystems. When solar farms harm or remove species within a habitat, they also remove the valuable ecosystem services that they provide to the habitat. The habitat becomes less livable for plants and wildlife that have adapted to its specific conditions. The area surrounding Lynchburg is a habitat for the American Bald Eagle, a protected species. They not only live here, they nest, feed, and breed here. Also, there is a wetland area close to a proposed field that is a Ducks Unlimited sanctuary. This can be documented.

Land Use Consequences - Utility-scale solar power installations require a lot of space because solar energy collection is relatively inefficient; it can take up to 10 acres of solar panels to produce 1 megawatt of electricity. Clearing land for a solar power plant will destroy wildlife habitat and degrade soil quality by removing plants and their root structures. Water Supply Management may be threatened if not carefully managed. Logically, it is very possible for ground water and wells to be contaminated.

Water Maintenance & Drainage - Construction projects need to have serious consideration of the quantity of stormwater retained at the construction site. The integrity of the town's water system is among the concerns that potentially toxic components of the solar equipment could leak. Estimating stormwater retained for a solar farm project can be challenging because the panels are impervious but the area beneath the panels is often pervious. Unmanaged drainage systems, even when designed to properly remove sufficient water from solar farms, can have detrimental effects on nearby properties.

Panel End-of-Life Management - Operations and Maintenance – Panel Washing and Vegetation Control Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) PV systems do not emit any material during their operation; however, they do generate electromagnetic fields (EMF), sometimes referred to as radiation. EMF produced by electricity is nonionizing radiation, meaning the radiation has enough energy to move atoms in a molecule around (experienced as heat), but not enough energy to remove electrons from an atom or molecule (ionize) or to damage DNA.

Energy Consumption - Solar power plants generate clean energy, but they do not yet produce enough to provide electricity for the production of all solar power equipment. Most PV cells and other solar equipment are produced in facilities that rely on fossil fuel-based power sources, such as traditional power plants. Therefore, the manufacture of these components results in the emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants that affect the air and nearby water bodies. Transporting, installing and maintaining solar power equipment also contributes to the carbon footprint of this power source.

Lastly, the community of Lynchburg as well as the surrounding area is a historical site. Not only did the Battle of Lynchburg take place here with Tecumseh and Simon Kenton, but it was the home of a large Shawnee Indian encampment. Logically, it only makes sense that the Native Americans distributed relics and artifacts encompassing the area of Lynchburg. The solar farms would forever destroy those historical sites.

Food for thought: The above-mentioned concerns are a real threat to our community. The village of Lynchburg will become a virtual solar desert. We will be virtually surrounded on almost every side of the community. We had just begun a revitalization of main street program before the Covid-19 virus hit and had shut everything down. What businesses will want to come in being surrounded by solar panels, what shoppers would want to come to our downtown, what prospective buyers would want to buy property here? The answer is simple – NONE!. What about the local hunters? With a solar desert, wildlife and game will be rerouted and leave the area. Between 3000 and 4000 acres surrounding the community is proposed to be multiple solar farms. The owners of the proposed solar deserts – one being Canadian sending energy hundreds if not thousands of miles away and destroying this community and yes, if this goes through, it will destroy the community of Lynchburg. PLEASE do what you can to stop all proposed solar farms from coming to the community of Lynchburg – the Dodson project, the Palamino project, and the Yellowwood project; if you do not, you will be signing the death warrant for the village of Lynchburg.

Honorable Representatives and Senators:

The community and village of Lynchburg is in a fight for its life! We are a historical and agriculture community. A gemstone in the great state of Ohio. The backbone of this community has always been agriculture; it is the blood that runs through the veins of this community. The air we breathe the land that we inhabit are critical to this breadth of this community. They are the elements and the quality of

life that we enjoy - given to us by our forefathers in the constitution. They are a reflection of our God-given rights – to pursue our happiness. Without agriculture, it is not possible to have banks, markets, stock markets, it is the foundation of a stable economy. Without agriculture, where is the food to come from? Some building where the plants never see the sun? Never breathe the fresh air? Generations of farmers have farmed this land surrounding us. They are the farmers who have contributed to put the food in the mouths of the citizens of this nation. Food on your tables! We are asking help to persevere our way of life. We need our elected officials not to turn their backs on us for money’s sake but to do as they promised and listen to the people. These projects will strip away the land. Today, many of us walk each day in the footsteps of our grandfathers, great grandfathers, and great, great, grandfathers. Some have had ancestors who lived here in the late 1700’s. Our family’s blood, sweat, and tears are engrained in the soil of the land that surrounds the countryside of Lynchburg. Please do not allow our lives and land to be stolen, our land is a responsibility to the country, it is scared ground and should be fought for. The land surrounding Lynchburg for hundreds of years has been fought for, our ancestors believed it was worth fighting for, dying for, and that it is the one thing that lasts. The earth, the land is the inheritance from our fore-fathers and on loan to us today. It is imperative that it be preserved for future generations. Only with a deep, inherent love for this land can preservation occur. Heaven on earth is under our feet and it is the land that we live on.

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