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COMMISSION

Case No 2025-00177

Hello,

This is Dr Kim Blevens, a retired pediatrician, and I'm writing with concerns about proposed solar panel installation by Barrelhead Solar LLC near Cumberland Lake. My family is from Louisville, and for many, many years, most summers we had a family get together near Conley Bottoms at Cumberland Lake. We have lived in Georgia for over 30 years but still met my sister, niece and their families there last summer. I have been made aware of Case No 2025-00177 where Barrelhead Solar LLC plans to install a large number of solar panels not far from the lake. Although in general, I am in favor of solar energy, the location would seem extremely important. I have done some research and discovered some startling and potential detrimental effects of a large field of solar panels installed so close to the lake. Obviously, this could affect the local animal habitat and ecosystem. Solar panel systems have been shown to alter water runoff and potentially leach metals and microplastics into the soil, which also could reach the lake water. I also understand that there is a large water supply necessary to run solar panels, and the time before last that we came to Cumberland Lake, the water level was already the lowest we have ever seen it. Then there are the potential effects later in the life of the system, with residual waste and recycling issues. Overall I feel that such a solar panel installation could be very harmful to the community and Cumberland Lake. There surely must be a safer location for Barrelhead Solar to pursue for their solar panel project.

Sincerely,

Kim T Blevens MD.

My address if needed is 215 St Andrews Ct., McDonough, GA 30253.