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PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

September 13, 2021

Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

Re: Rhudes Creek Solar LLC project in Cecilia, KY

This letter is to express our opposition to the solar field project proposed in Cecilia, KY by ibV Energy Partners sited on 750 acres of prime agricultural land. We are opposed for the following reasons:

- Prime agricultural land is being targeted by these industrial solar companies because that land is flat, clear of trees and buildings thus saving them money to clear. Maximizing cropland to raise crops to combat world hunger is a worldwide goal. We must do all we can to preserve our crop land.
- Large solar fields on farmland have a negative economic impact on Hardin County. Loss of sales of fertilizer, seed, chemicals, farm supplies, etc. will at the very least cost jobs in farm supply business if not closure of some of these businesses.
- Economists have noted that solar companies are not efficient. ibV stated in the Planning Commission hearing that their solar field would at best be only 25% efficient with an average of only 4 to 5 hours of sunlight per day. This makes solar plants unreliable and solar plants require 100% backup all the time by fossil fuels. Cecilia has an average of 188 days of full sun which equates to about 5 hours average per day of sunlight over a year or 2500 hours per year versus Arizona that has over 5700 hours per year. We should not trade food for this inefficient energy source as capacity is only achieved during periods of full sun. Battery technology does not exist to efficiently store the solar power.
- Area property values will decrease. As these fields become more and more visible, surrounding areas become fragile meaning they are no longer desirable areas to live in. Solar companies will tell you this is false but studies from universities in Rhode Island and Texas uphold the decrease in property values.
- There is an environmental impact. Solar waste is toxic. With current plans, the IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency) calculates that by 2050, the disposal of worn-out solar panels will constitute over double the tonnage of all of today's global plastic waste. Toxic chemicals can leak from damaged solar panel and can include lead and other known carcinogens. All present and past EPA violations of Solar companies should be reviewed.
- Taxpayers should not fund these facilities with local bond money. Many of these are LLCs of foreign companies ((ibV included) who can sell off or bankrupt solar firms leaving the county stuck with decommissioning these panels. Leaseholders will not get paid their leases, investors will lose their bond investment and the county will lose tax revenue while the solar companies have already reaped the benefits of taxpayer subsidies and tax credits.

We ask that you consider our objections to this project. These facts are documented in research. We ask that you carefully research for yourselves. This is only the first of 8 or 9 other solar fields proposed in Hardin County with several others in surrounding counties. The impact on agriculture and economic growth would be devastating.

Donald R. Sexton

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