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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Chandler, Kent \(PSC\)](#)
Subject: PSC Case # 2021-00235
Date: Friday, July 1, 2022 1:55:27 PM

Mr. Chandler,

My name is Bridget Coots, I'm the tall lady in white that spoke on behalf of the farmers of Logan County at yesterday's hearing. I hope it's appropriate to email you directly, I've never been involved in anything of this matter so I'm very fuzzy on the guidelines.

John Mason Barnes and I left after the third witness from Silicon Ranch yesterday so I finished watching the testimony last night.

No offense but I found several errors in the calculations of the value of the ground as it currently is, in agriculture production. I know everyone has to get statistics basically from the same site, but when you combine ALL of Ky lease rent prices and divide them in order to get the median price that doesn't at all reflect what above average farm ground leases for in Logan County.

I can tell you that my son offered \$325 an acre with a 3 year lease to a farm about 4 miles down the road, and to be honest it's not as good a farm as the proposed site, but it is good. It has pembroke soil and it has a river adjacent to it for irrigation of tobacco if you were raising tobacco. I know for a fact that some of this proposed land is getting \$300 an acre currently in rent and I imagine bonus checks when deemed appropriate. I can also tell you that it would be relatively easy, as in one phone call, to receive \$350 for the ground.

I know the man speaking(I can't remember without re-watching hearing) got \$205 from a source he thinks is accurate, but I assure you it is not for this particular area.

I can tell by your demeanor that you will weigh this case heavily. This goes so much further than just making sure that the solar company says the right things and jumps through all the hoops. If the permit is granted, and... Logan Co doesn't immediately make some changes to their zoning, I feel that the very core that makes Logan County such a wonderful place to live and raise a family will be jeopardized. This is truly a farming community and has been for years, for a job you basically farm or are involved in agriculture at another level other than producer, teach, or work at a local factory. I hazard to guess that covers 90% of the employment in Logan County.

Our yearly festival is a Tobacco Festival! We celebrate that crop to this day even with the bad reputation it has, because... it has and still continues to provide a living for so many. I can speak honestly as a grain and tobacco farmer, that I desperately wish I could replace that cash crop for another but as of yet we haven't found anything that can match the money acre per acre.

There is no doubt this is an appropriate site for the solar panels per the Silicon

Ranch's specifications, but there should absolutely be no doubt that this site is completely wrong for this type of development in this County. It goes against everything we stand for. Logan County has been trying to bring jobs in for years and years and regardless of what the financial witness said, the 7 I believe workers (and it's yet to be determined if they will even be current Logan County citizens) will in no way replace the amount of money that it takes out of play for this ground. What that man doesn't know is how many acres you operate determines how many combines you own, how many headers for those combines, how many tractors, grain carts, semi's and the list goes on. See that's what keeps Logan County going, when we buy 2 combines, that's like putting in a pool...that's just the beginning of the money you will spend. You see big equipment with a lot of moving parts breaks down ALOT. So then our Local Agri-Power or John Deere dealership gets to sell us parts and more than likely provide the very costly labor to fix this equipment. The same theory applies for so many aspects that people who don't farm can't learn from any statistics that I know of out there. In Logan County farmers are buying millions (this is not an exaggeration, we alone spend close to 2M on chemicals/seed) of product from Local Ag dealers, not counting the hundreds of thousands in fuel. We also spend on an average 25,000 on farmowners insurance and that doesn't include vehicle coverage or your KEMI (which is Kentucky owned) worker's comp policy. Truly the list could go on forever.

So you see, yes this is just one farm but if you take enough, not only will you be hurting the nations ability and Kentucky's rank in grain production, but you will be gradually closing Logan County economic system down, people just can't see it. They think if only effects these few families and those farmers but there will be a trickle down effect. Those farmers can't just go out and pick up that 1300 or 1500 acres to replace what they lost. Someone else is already running all available ground, so what if that farmer can't generate enough income to pay his equipment costs and land payments. You see we rent the ground at a price where we can still hopefully make a profit so we can pay for everything it takes to be able to farm. If you took 1500 acres from me, I would have to revamp my whole financial strategy to survival farming. I know everyone is in a different boat but we should be willing to do what it takes to keep the boat afloat.

I really appreciate your time and I hope I in no way have offended anyone on this siting board. I don't know how to do your job just like you don't know how to do mine. I am very grateful and respectful of your position. It is an important one which I'm certain you take seriously.

I know we couldn't ask questions and you couldn't answer, but if you ever want to talk to me or any other Logan Countian about any of these things I truly would welcome the back and forth.

Have a great 4th of July.

Sincerely,

Bridget Coots