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Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting
P.O. Box 615
211 Sower Blvd.
Frankfort, KY, 40602-0615

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PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

To the Board,

Seeing as time is of the essence, I will cut to the chase: I ask that the applied for waiver of KRS 278.704(2)(e) not be granted to Thoroughbred Solar/Leeward Renewable Energy for their proposed project in Hart County.

I invite and encourage every member of the Board to make an on-site inspection at my residence. You will find yourself on top of probably the most well-developed karst system in the entire world. The problem is that you cannot see much of this system at the surface. This is foregrounded in times of rain: water flows downward, and disappears into the earth.

Thoroughbred Solar wishes to subsume this entire valley, swallowing up vast tracts of karst-marked land stretching from I-65 to Rowletts. As noted in numerous studies carried out by various Kentucky governmental departments and regulatory bodies (as well as actors in the non-profit sector), erosion and pollution has long been a challenge in this region. This location is a gateway to Mammoth Cave National Park and its UN Biosphere Preserve. Please consult the Mammoth Cave National Park folks for all the information you need about problems encroaching upon their park.

A review of litigation involving solar companies in recent years has shown a troubling track record when it comes to erosion, and possible contamination of local waterways where these developments have gone up. It stands to reason, then, that the entire watershed that runs from Munfordville to the park region will be threatened. The rare, almost extinct Rayed Bean fresh water mussel is found here, as example. State and Federal efforts helped re-establish these mussel beds. Western Kentucky University (WKU) has a vested interest in the region. They have purchased around 1600 acres for preservation of these mussel beds and generalized conservation efforts.

WKU representatives came to my residence—located mere hundreds of feet from what is intended to be industrial-scale solar energy infrastructure—several times to see if I would place the home on the National Historic Register. This residence has a long and storied history: it began as a stage-coach stop and tavern in 1810. It is the single most unique and historic structure south of the Green River in Hart County.

Thoroughbred Solar wants to build 2 road entrances and a control center/office right across a two-lane road from my front yard. These entrances are slated to have light systems that, due to direct proximity to my residence, will be the cause of significant light pollution—atop the noise issues that are outlined in the company's case-filings. Thus, there will be significant aesthetic transformations in the character of this location, which will not only fundamentally change our quality of life, but will likely have impact on our property values. I would like the Board to note that Thoroughbred Solar's submitted property value assessment report does not dive into particulars such as ours (proximity to solar farms at less than 1/5 of a mile, high density of non-panel solar infrastructure, convergence of light and noise pollution, etc).

I could go on much longer, but I'm already tired of this whole mess. The project does not belong here. I invite you again to see all of this, and my door is open any time. Likewise, I request that some sort of evidentiary and public hearings be held at the soonest possible convenience.

Sincerely, 
James Lee Berger.

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