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PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

December 2, 2022

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

Case #2022-00115

Dear Commissioners:

I live on Highway 335 in Hart County, Kentucky. From my front door I have a beautiful view of farmlands and rolling pasture. However, a current proposal by Leeward Renewable Energy to place the Thoroughbred Solar Project on the fields in front of my home will contaminate the picturesque landscape. Should the solar project proceed, my view will become rows of solar panels.

The sun's reflection off solar panels is blinding! Nationwide courts have and continue to litigate complaints by community members related to the blinding glare from neighbor's solar panels. Additionally, the glare produced by a solar farm can be so prevalent that they can be blinding to airline pilots. At certain times, the angle of the proposed panels will reflect the sunlight causing the view from my front door to be blinding. Now, imagine the solar glare impact this would have on motorists traveling on Interstate 65 or the nearby county roads. ¹Prolonged exposure to UV rays can result in eye diseases such as cataracts, macular degeneration, and eyelid cancer.

The location that is being proposed for the Thoroughbred Solar Project is surrounded by modest homes owned by individuals who love the rural setting. Converting the proposed property from agricultural use to industrial use will completely alter the local setting and deteriorate residential property values for the duration of the land lease or longer. ²According to the 2020 census, the proposed site location is in a "high poverty area" where at least twenty percent (20%) of the population is below the poverty level. The installation of the

¹ <https://www.healthline.com/health/eye-health/sunburned-eyes>

² <https://mtgis-portal.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=31e10881bd1040b7b0ae685559917509>

proposed solar project will only reduce residential values of individuals who are already living in poverty.

The health, safety, and residential values of myself and my neighbors must carry weight in your decision for the placement of the proposed solar farm. You should not compromise the welfare of local humanity for the financial benefit of a corporation.

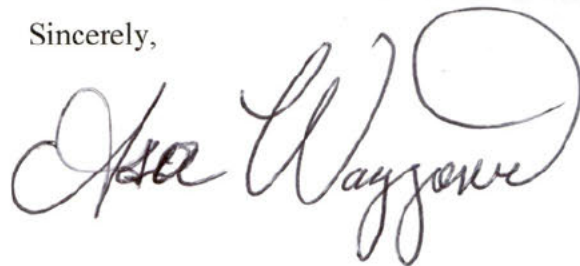
³Solar farms are not immune from fire and when they do occur, "they are extremely destructive". Fire protection for the proposed site is provided by local volunteer departments. These departments are volunteer so their response times are longer than a paid department and their availability is limited at time. Should a fire break out at the proposed solar farm, area departments would incur extensive costs in materials and may not have sufficient equipment to effectively extinguish or even control the fire. Smoke from such a fire could be blinding to motorists on the nearby county roads and Interstate 65 which would likely result automobile accidents. However, our volunteer fire departments who normally respond to automobile accidents would not be available because they would be fighting a solar panel fire. This same smoke from the fires would no doubt have lasting impact on our local environment, crops, livestock, and human health.

Fox news recently reported that ⁴"Four companies that developed solar energy facilities in Alabama, Idaho and Illinois have agreed to pay a total of \$1.3 million for violating construction permits and rules for handling groundwater". There is absolutely no reason for our community to borrow these troubles.

It is my request, and the request of my neighbors, that you do not approve the proposed site of the Thoroughbred Solar Project located near Rowletts Cave Springs Road, Highway 335, and Interstate 65 in Hart County.

Please notify me of all meetings to be held on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Asa Waggoner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular flourish at the end.

Asa Waggoner

³ <https://www.firetrace.com/solar-farm-fire-protection>

⁴ <https://www.foxnews.com/us/solar-farms-alabama-idaho-illinois-ordered-pay-total-1-3-million-environmental-violations>

Asa Waggoner
353 Land W Turnpike Road
Horse Cave, KY 42749

LOUISVILLE KY 400

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and Transmission Siting
PO BOX 615
211 Sower Blvd.
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

40601-829414

