

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PSC Public Comment](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Correspondence PSC 2024-000129
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 4:23:52 PM
Attachments: [CM letter to Hon A Hatton - PSC 2024-00129.pdf](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please find attached letter for Case No. 2024-00129.

Chauncey Morris
Kentucky Thoroughbred Association
Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders, Inc.
[REDACTED]
Lexington, KY 40511 USA
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[REDACTED]



Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, Inc.

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July 24, 2024

The Honorable Angie Hatton, Vice Chair
Commonwealth of Kentucky
Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, KY 40602 USA

Dear Ms. Hatton,

We are writing the Commission to provide public comment Case No. 2024-00129. The Eastern Kentucky Power Cooperative project on Winchester Road should be denied.

We are the trade association for the Thoroughbred breeding & racing industry in Kentucky. Horses employ 60,494 Kentuckians in direct, indirect and induced jobs across the Commonwealth.¹ In Fayette County alone, the agricultural cluster of cattle, row crops and horses employs 14,091 and 1,724 are employed via hospitality, meaning 1 in 12 jobs are attributed to farming operations.²

Our Association favors traditional sources of energy including coal, petroleum and natural gas, as well as renewable sources of energy including wind, solar, geothermal, nuclear and hydroelectric.

Horses are Kentucky's signature industry, and Fayette County is the heart of its production and sales. In addition to farms, there is a deep and vibrant service community that has evolved alongside our industry. In 2023, Keeneland Association and Fasig-Tipton, both based in Lexington, sold 8,310 Thoroughbred horses at ten live auctions for \$860,962,300 to buyers from over fifty of the sixty-nine countries around the world that have Thoroughbred racing. Fayette County and Central Kentucky boast natural attributes unique to the region that makes it the best place in the world to breed Thoroughbred horses. The total value of equine related assets, including land in the Commonwealth is valued at \$27.7 billion,³ and the cited 2012 CEDIK study found 114,857 acres in Fayette County contributed \$1.45 billion to this total.

¹ American Horse Council Foundation. (2018). The Recreation Sector. *Economic Impact of the Horse Industry in Kentucky*, 2.

² Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky. (2017) *The Influence on the Agricultural Cluster on the Fayette County Economy*, 1.

³ The University of Kentucky, Kentucky Horse Council, U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service. *2022 Kentucky Equine Survey*

Hon. Angie Hatton
July 24, 2024
Page Two

Local authorities in Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government deemed rural areas be devoted to agricultural production, including livestock production and horse breeding. It would set a negative precedent to permit industrial uses like solar energy production in these same rural areas.

Our industry's capitalization grew over centuries to create major business returns, economic impact and tax base for federal, state and local governments who created the Urban Service Boundary to preserve it, for economic reasons.

We are happy to provide more information.

Sincerely,



Chauncey Morris
Executive Director

From: [KY Public Service Commission Public Comments](#)
To: [PSC Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comments for Case: 2024-00129 - East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc.
Date: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 11:54:23 AM

Public Comments for Case 2024-00129 submitted by (margaretrichey@aol.com) on Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at 11:54 AM

Name: Margaret G. Richey

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Lexington

State: Kentucky

Zip Code: 40503

Phone number where you can be reached: [REDACTED]

Home phone:

Comments: Prime farmland should not be converted to a solar facility. I am a proponent of solar energy, but it must be done without removing productive farmland. EKPC should explore the development of solar facilities in areas that are unsuitable for agriculture (i.e. urban landscapes, rooftops [see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efDfc3VhINI>], parking lots [see <https://flyevv.com/evvforward>] and flood plains [see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efDfc3VhINI>]). EKPC should also explore agrivoltaics: the integration of agricultural production with solar farms (see <https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/farmers-guide-going-solar#:~:text=Agrivoltaics%20is%20defined%20as%20agriculture,between%20rows%20of%20solar%20panels>).

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PSC Public Comment](#)
Subject: Case 2024-000129, Eastern Kentucky Power Cooperative
Date: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 3:32:24 PM
Attachments: [FCNC to PSC on Solar Farm.docx](#)



Public Service Commissioners:

Find attached comment from the Fayette County Neighborhood Council on Case #2024-000129, Eastern Kentucky Power Cooperative.,

Walt Gaffield, President
Fayette County Neighborhood Council, Inc.



Fayette County Neighborhood Council

... a positive voice for neighborhoods!

July 30, 2024

TO: Kentucky Public Service Commission

FROM: Fayette County Neighborhood Council

Case # 2024-000129, Eastern Kentucky Power Cooperative

Dear Public Service Commissioners:

The Fayette County Neighborhood Council (hereinafter FCNC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization composed of neighborhoods in the rural, urban, and suburban areas of Fayette County dedicated to educating and assisting our neighborhoods and improving them. This may be the first time FCNC has commented on a request to the PSC on a utility matter.

Fayette County was one of the first areas in the United States to establish a merged Urban County Government and was the first to establish an Urban Services Boundary (USB) to protect its world renowned agricultural industry and to have more efficient utilities by limiting suburban sprawl. The Urban County Government established the USB in 1958, 66 years ago, and without it would have lost its agricultural industry and horse farms. Today Lexington is known as the "Horse Capital of the World."

Until last year, the last expansion of the USB was in 1996. In response (in 1999) Lexington passed an ordinance requiring that no more than one single family residence could be built on 40 acres in our rural area. In 2000, We started our Purchase of Development Rights Program (PDR) using both Federal and local funds to restrict development on rural land of significant value. In 2006 the World Monuments Fund placed the Bluegrass Cultural Landscape on the World Monuments Watch List. Being on the list signifies that the Fund recognizes Lexington's rural area as AT RISK. The Fund noted:

In recent decades, the region has witnessed rapid suburbanization through unregulated development. Between 1997 and 2002, more than 300 square kilometers of Bluegrass land were appropriated for other uses, compromising the region's distinct sense of place and undermining traditional industries such as horse breeding and farming, and endangering historic structures associated with the landscape.

Last year in response to a need for more housing and rising housing prices, the Urban Services Boundary expanded in five (5) different locations consuming another 2,800 acres of Bluegrass farmland for development. This year, a major horse farm has received approval to divide the farm into 40-acre lots for single family detached housing (one per lot). Now, an alien public utility (Eastern Kentucky Power) and a private investment company involving Shell Oil Company both want to build solar panel farms on the Bluegrass Cultural Landscape. Each new development of any kind sets precedent for more.

FCNC recommends that the Public Service Commission turn down the Eastern Kentucky Power request for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the following reasons:

1. The Bluegrass Cultural Landscape is of worldwide importance.
2. The World Monuments Fund indicates that the region is at risk from suburban sprawl and development.
3. The risk is growing rather than diminishing.
4. The area is an economic engine bringing in visitors from around the world and creating jobs.
5. The people who live in Fayette County accept the rural area as a major part of their identity.
6. Eastern Kentucky Power needs to find a better location. Solar and battery power are two of the ways of the future but production needs to be in places that cause less damage.
7. The soil in the Bluegrass is irreplaceable and accounts for its success as an agricultural center.
8. The PSC should require a benefit/cost analysis that includes public costs and benefits.



Fayette County Neighborhood Council

... a positive voice for neighborhoods!

9. If the PSC approves this permit, it would set a precedent for more permits and damage. Once a legal precedent is set, it is very difficult to reverse it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Walter Gaffield, President
Fayette County Neighborhood Council, Inc.

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