## Case No. 2024-00255

Thank you for your comments on the application of STMO BN, LLC (Starfire). Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter, 2024-00255, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at <u>View Case Filings for: 2024-00255 (ky.gov).</u>

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

From: Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 5:51 PM To: PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov> Subject: Case Number: 2024-00255 - STMO BN, LLC (Starfire)



Dear Kentucky Public Service Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Starfire Solar project.

This project is a critical opportunity to tap into our history of producing energy and bring it into the future. By reclaiming the relatively flat but barren land left behind by Starfire Mine for a utility-scale solar farm, the land will continue to produce energy as the original mine did for decades.

The area's long history of industry and energy production also means that there's a lot of infrastructure already built out that wouldn't be true in other places. Highways and roads that helped move hundreds of tons of coal could now assist in the build out and maintenance for this project and ensure the area is still an energy producer.

Large-scale solar projects offer the cheapest electricity in history, bringing communities across the country huge economic benefits and safe, reliable power. The total Starfire Solar project is planned across four phases, and the first phase alone is projected to bring \$100 million in tax revenues over its 40-year lifetime. The

project will also bring both temporary and permanent jobs to the area. While a single project cannot match the thousands of mining jobs lost in recent years, building the biggest solar farm in Kentucky will bring work to the region.

Adding more solar to our region's fuel mix will ensure the lights stay on if other power sources fail and could bring in other improvements to our grid infrastructure paid for by developers. In addition, solar energy is clean, affordable and stably-priced.

Solar farms can provide sustainable power, create good-paying local jobs, and this project would help maintain Eastern Kentucky's role of powering our lives. I respectfully urge the Commission to approve the Starfire Solar project.

Sincerely,

Roger Smith

Hazard, KY 41701-5779

\*Gregory T Dutton Frost Brown Todd, LLC 400 West Market Street 32nd Floor Louisville, KY 40202-3363

\*Kathryn A Eckert Frost Brown Todd, LLC 400 West Market Street 32nd Floor Louisville, KY 40202-3363

\*Pierce T. Stevenson Frost, Brown, Todd, LLC 250 West Main Street Suite 2800 Lexington, KY 40507

\*Zachary Weinberg 38 Eagles Nest Emmalena, KY 41740