

Emilie and Clint Christensen
1481 240th St W
Castle Rock Township, MN

25 February, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

Please file this in the official record for Docket No. 24-267 to be presented at the February 26 Commission meeting.

We are writing to formally and vehemently oppose the proposed solar farm that would directly border the north and east sides of our five-acre hobby farm at 1481 240th St W in Castle Rock Township, Minnesota.

We intentionally sought a rural farming community in which to put down roots. When we moved here in 2015, we were seeking open farmland, native plants and wildlife, and rural character and charm. The idea of suburban sprawl reaching our agricultural township was deeply unsettling, so before tearing down the existing house and building our dream home in 2019, we carefully researched zoning and land-use restrictions to ensure the surrounding land would not suddenly become dense neighborhoods.

We never anticipated that industrial solar infrastructure would pose the greater threat.

We made a substantial financial investment in rebuilding our home in 2019. Our house was thoughtfully designed to embrace and enhance the surrounding rural landscape, open views, and natural beauty that define this area. Replacing open agricultural land with fencing, panel arrays, and utility equipment would fundamentally change the experience of living here and inhibit our ability to peacefully enjoy the property we have put so much time, thought, and financial resources into.

There would also be serious financial consequences for us, and others in the area. The ability to sell or refinance our properties will be jeopardized. Rural property buyers are specifically seeking open land, scenic views, agricultural surroundings, and privacy. The proximity to a solar project of this scale will decrease desirability and buyer demand, extend time on market, and lead to lower sale prices and property valuations, all of which represent financial harm to our family and our neighbors. We should not be forced to bear a loss in value because of this.

In addition to the financial and emotional losses we're facing, there would also be devastating environmental impacts. The land in question is all part of a functioning rural ecosystem that supports native prairie plants, pollinators, and is a vital habitat to countless animal species with established wildlife corridors. Construction of a solar field would disrupt these corridors, destroy many of the native flora, and force wildlife into areas which are unsuitable and dangerous for them, and for humans.

The project location also includes a significant area within and around the Vermillion River watershed system, which is actively managed by the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) to protect water quality, trout-designated streams, wetlands, and conservation areas. The consequences of introducing industrial infrastructure into a managed watershed area could be ecologically devastating.

The absence of thorough and transparent consideration of these critical factors calls into question the integrity and overall suitability of this proposal. This project is inconsistent with watershed protection obligations, rural land-use planning standards, environmental stewardship principles, and the rights and interests of affected property owners.

For the protection of our home and way of life, our financial investment, our farming community, and the ecological integrity of the Vermillion River watershed, we firmly and unequivocally urge you to deny this, and any future proposals that would create similar impacts on our property and community.

Sincerely,

Emile and Clint Christensen