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To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
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| Provide the docket's number. | IP-7159/ESS-25-205 |

Leave a comment on the docket. *

Minnesota Public utilities Commission;

This letter is being sent to express our strong opposition to the proposed Lake Charlotte Solar Project in Rutland Township, Martin County, Minnesota.

It is relevant to note that this potential large-scale solar farm is met with complete opposition from local residents and government officials. Key concerns revolve around significant threats to the greenhouse gas emissions, farmland and agricultural businesses that rely on the farmland producing a crop, property values, our regions natural beauty, contamination to our lakes, wildlife, and water systems, county and private tile networking systems and land-locking the city of Northrop just to name a few. These factors are key to businesses that are dependent on the farmland producing a crop. Not to mention this particular project is WAY TOO CLOSE to the city of Northrop. This project brings the potential for fire which would wipe out the entire town. This potential trad-off is alarming in Martin County, where agriculture is vital to our local community and the foundation of its economy. Even with organic matter being grown on the land, there will still be depletion of the lands soil and organic matter. These panels leak lead, cadmium, arsenic, selenium and other toxins into the soil and wash right into the water supply. The land is better off being left as farmland that is fertilized and cared for as farmland.

In the state of MN solar panels do not perform well. The length of daylight and the fact that we have harsh winters with snow cover and drifting which will also affect the yards, roads and houses that are close to this project along with the tornadoes and hail storms in the summer; will all be factors in the failure and the potential for damage to this site and subsequently our communities. When these sites are damaged who's going to pay to fix them? The taxes in MN are already crazy high. If there is potential for higher taxes because of these solar farms, and there is a high probability that there is, residence of Martin County can't afford them. The cost of decommissioning these types of projects are absolutely going to bankrupt our county. In 20 to 30 years it is going to cost well over 30 million dollars to decommission this project! What happens if the company sells or goes bankrupt? Martin county is going to be stuck footing the bill and we can't afford that.

We really need to think about the long term impact these solar farms are going to have on our agricultural communities. We understand that corn sold to an ethanol plant goes toward energy production but seed is still being bought and planted, ground is still being sprayed and fertilized, semi-trucks are still hauling the grain and there are byproducts from ethanol that feed livestock.

Even in the off year you're still growing a crop such as soybeans. When you take up farmland for solar projects it is 100% taking those acres out of production completely and for 25-30 years at that. Our job as citizens of these counties/communities is to protect them for future generations of ag families and businesses. We believe these solar projects will be detrimental to our communities and future generations for many years to come. Therefore, we do not want them in Martin County!

Thank you,
Nicole and Dennis Lawton