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4/12/22

Public Advisor
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Subject: Hayward Solar LLC, MN PUC Docket #IP-7053/CN-21-112 and IP7053/GS-21-113

Dear MN Public Utilities Commission:

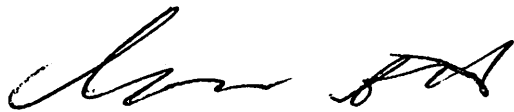
My name is Todd Hinrichs

I farm and own farmland that I expect could become part of the Hayward Solar project just south of the Interstate 90 cloverleaf in Hayward Township. I have four sons, aged 8, 10, 12 and 12. I am very much in favor this proposed project for economic, agronomic and the health and well-being the next generation that we are all shepherding. This solar development offers a seed to the future, not only economically, but also philosophically.

- 1) The nature of the land that I am offering to this project was cited as a greenhouse gas engine in the Minneapolis Star and Tribune dated Feb. 13 2022. So, not only would this project offer up a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through reduced burning of fuels, but also through the reduction of the land's contribution to CO₂ in the atmosphere.
- 2) I grew up in this area and I know the very recent history of the climate - although, I enjoy the generally warmer weather. As such, I appreciate and plan for continued climate change in many agronomic practices - a climate trend that has driven my seed choices from sub-100 day corn varieties 20 years ago to longer season varieties that encroach on 110 days now.
- 3) Our high yields in this region are dependent on cool nights for plant respiration and sugar transport within the plants. I have noticed that, over the last 15 years, these cool nights have become far less dependable, and, sometimes, yield limiting.
- 4) As a backdrop, according to the UN Climate report, accumulating greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are driving climate change. The climate is expected to continue slingshotting itself higher for decades - another 1.5 degrees over the next 20 years - even if we shut down all CO₂ emissions today. This trend will, undoubtedly affect my children.
- 5) What we are talking about is a \$180 million + project that covers roughly 1,300 acres, effectively multiplying the taxable asset base on this land by 15 times, not including other income taxes that are expected to total almost \$100,000 annually.

- 6) It will benefit our little Hayward Township and the larger Freeborn County with substantial tax revenues. This is important because, as Acrevalue describes Freeborn County, "Freeborn County is a high tax county". Our township and county NEED this revenue. And, this should be appreciated by everyone: it's an extremely rare event when a developer of any substantial business knocks on our door.
- 7) I've watched while nearby towns have grown with a degree of economic health that seems to elude our area. They have enjoyed the fruits of businesses building upon the success of other businesses, resulting in a healthy economic ecosystem that attracts more success, families and self-sustainability. For our area, I could imagine that this project could not only be of nearly immediate benefit, but also chart a course for a brighter future outlook.

Todd Hinrichs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Hinrichs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "H".