

My name is Dr David Rich, I live on Harbison Road, Cedarville and I am opposed to the Kingwood Solar Electric Utility.

My educational background is a Doctor of Public Administration. I have been teaching Public Policy at University for over twenty years. Prior to that I was a city manager in three cities in two different states. As a city manager I worked hard to bring compatible economic development to communities. I've sited industrial parks, expanded airports, redeveloped Brownfields, and established Downtown Development Authorities. In my thirty plus years of government experience I have never seen a worse industrial development plan than the one proposed by Kingwood Solar. Any benefit to the State of Ohio or our local government is more than erased by the negative impact that this project will produce.

I have serious concerns about the need for this industrial electric facility and the impact it will have both our community and the environment.

Need

The applicant Kingwood Solar has not shown a need for this facility or a net benefit to either the State or our local communities.

Economic Impact

The placement of this facility will be a blight on our local and regional economy.

1) In recent years (show on map), we have seen new home building with new homes valued at \$300 to \$500,000. All new home building will be stopped, and the appraised value and tax base will sharply decline.

2) Much of the demand in new housing is related to the growth of Cedarville University. Our student enrollment over the past five years has increased by 25% to an enrollment in Fall, 2021 of 4,700 students. This growth is projected to continue. We have 562 faculty and staff employed full time – all needing adequate housing. We currently have a housing shortage in our area.

3) Kingwood Solar, with their promise of 23 full time jobs, has placed their industrial electric facility within 1500 feet of 7 university structures. This is incompatible with a university campus and may impact the continued growth of the University.

4) Economically, we are a farming community as well as a college community. Historically, the younger generation of farming families have been able to lease retired farmers fields in addition to their own acres to be able to make their operations profitable. I am concerned that this project will significantly reduce the number of families farming in the future as well as making it difficult to access remaining available fields with their farming equipment.

5) As you can see on the map, this project is located adjacent to the Clifton State Nature Area, John Bryan State Park and the Historic Clifton Mill. These attractions draw tens of thousands of visitors each year.

Environmental and Health Concerns

6) As a city manager, I have also dealt with brownfield redevelopment. I have had to deal with the aftermath of bad private and public decision making related to the placement of industrial facilities. Placing 480,000 solar panels containing cadmium within 200' of drinking wells is an environmental and health disaster waiting to happen. There are over 100 homes in the proposed footprint of this project with drinking wells that can be contaminated. This is an unnecessary risk. We would be one tornado away from having toxic chemicals leaching into wells, the Girl Scout Camp, the Little Miami River, Clifton Gorge, John Bryant State Park, and the City of Yellow Springs drinking water well fields. The cost of one environmental cleanup would more than offset any benefit claimed by the applicants. We would face at a minimum 25 years of toxic chemicals leaching into the water table.

Summary

This proposed massive 175 Mega Watt solar facility is economically and environmentally incompatible with our communities. I respectfully petition this board to reject this application and the placement of this facility.

