

To whom it may concern,

Hello and thanks for taking time to read my letter. I am no lawyer, or a highly educated individual, (other than a 2 yr tech degree), but it doesn't take much common sense to wonder why on earth is all of these solar farms being put up in highland county? Is it because there is no push back? The commissioners seem are not asking any questions as to what is going on here. Are they receiving back door money? These are questions that are going around and have many people scratching there heads.

I have a very close friend who is a small farmer who had a very real concern. Many of these land owners are large scale farmers who are giving up there land to these "farms". What do they do know that they cant farm these fields? They go out and rent ground and pay more for it than a small farmer can pay. That alone drives up the rental cost that they can not afford to pay. It is a real situation that is happening. These large scale farmers either own the land or are tied to large land owners who are leasing there land to these solar projects. Example is carraher farms south of Hillsboro near mowrystown.

Another issue I have is if these are so great why on earth are they leasing the fields instead of just buying them? I question this as to why are they doing it this way? What happens if the solar proves to be unprofitable and the decide to "cut the cord". You basically have worthless polluted ground that cannot ever be farmed again.

Another point i saw was the solar farm developer stating that they are not clearing any woods to build these. That is a flat out LIE. The project near mowrystown had land cleared by carrahers to turn to solar fields. I took a drive looking at the mess that has been created on the Hillcrest solar farm near mt orab ohio. On a back road of off state route 286 next to one of the project fields I saw a huge pile of logs. I brought this up to a friend of mine who knows the area and he stated they had cleared land to do these fields. The end result is going to be land clearing making up for the lost land to solar fields.

Also another concern that needs to be addressed is why are we having these meetings virtually were no one can attend. Using the pandemic to sweep these projects under the rug has to STOP! The word needs to be spread. The rubber stamp that allows these solar projects especially in Highland County needs to put on hold so everyone can have input.

Thanks for taking the time to read my letter.

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