

From: Puco Contact OPSB
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 9:09 AM
To: Puco Docketing
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PUCO

Contact Name	Kayle Mast
Enter your question or comment	<p> I am writing this comment as I strongly oppose the oak run solar project and do not want to see you move forward with the project. As a lifetime resident of rural Madison County, and the daughter of a fourth generation farmer, seed dealer & beef operations manager, I've grown up surrounded by agriculture. My grandpa taught my dad and I our passion for agriculture and to forever love and cherish our land as it's important to care for God's creations and it will continue to provide for us. As our world's population continues to grow, we as farmers are tasked to work harder, tend to land, and work to grow crops to their highest yield in order to feed our growing population. How can solar farms contribute to our growing population when we are taking Madison County's prime farmland out of production? Though it may not seem like much, as some view us as a small part of feeding the world, this average loss will have a great impact on our community. By taking thousands of acres out of crop production we are hurting our communities agricultural business. Examples are seeds dealerships, co-ops, farm insurance agents, grain elevators, chemical dealers and so many more as they are losing farmers who are their customers due to them having less acres in crop production. On average it takes 100 years to form approximately 1 inch of top soil. One blink, and we are displacing 1-2 foot of our soils during these solar projects, taking away from the land that has provided to us as a community for centuries. By continuing with these solar projects you are taking large amounts of prime farmland out of crop production, leading to the end of generational farms. This forcing growers out of our county as they cannot compete to keep land with growing rent prices due to a price increase in reflection of the 1000's of acres being converted to solar and removed from crop production. As an agricultural photographer, my job consists of capturing these generational farms as their children grow to have children while they are doing what they love. Tending to our land as it's important to care for God's creations and it will continue to provide for us. With many acres coming out of production this means less of </p>

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	<p>agriculture's beauty and families for me to capture in the years to come. As stated previously, I strongly oppose the Oak Run solar project and all other solar projects in Madison County. I strongly encourage you to not move forward with the project as it will have a very hurtful impact on Madison County as we are a very driven Ag community. Thank you.</p>
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