

First Name

Carol

Last Name

Lewis

Email

carolannsl@hotmail.com

City

North Street, MI

Message

Dear Township Officials,

My name is Carol Ann Lewis and I live in North Street, MI. I have signed a lease to lease our land to Portside Solar for solar panels and transmission lines. I completely support Portside Solar's project.

My family did extension research about solar panels prior to signing our lease with Portside Solar. We also hired a lawyer and extensively reviewed the contracts we signed with Portside Solar. We have no reservations or doubts about the benefits this project will provide FG and Clyde townships. This project will provide economic growth to the farming community. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to be a part of this project.

Please feel free to contact us for any additional information. We support this project and are excited for the township to approve the proposal.

Sincerely,
Carol Ann Lewis

First Name

Charlie

Last Name

Lewis

Email

charlieslewis@hotmail.com

City

North Street

Message

Dear Township Officials,

I'm writing in support of the Portside Solar Project.

We support this project for a multitude of reasons.

This project will boost local tax revenue while creating hundreds of local in demand construction jobs and providing income for local farmers and community members. Additionally, the Portside Solar project will promote cleaner air and water for future generations.

We have done extensive research on our own and have had thorough discussions with Portside Solar over the last two years. We have made an informed decision that solar panels and transmissions lines will be beneficial to the community providing cleaner energy and will give us, farmers, a reliable steady income so we can continue to farm on the rest of our property. Farming is a very unpredictable business due to Mother Nature and the markets. You can do everything right and still not have a good crop thus less income. This will enable farmers to continue to farm and grow even through bad crop years. Farmers and any landowner has a right to decide what to do with their property. Farmers have chosen on their own accord to sign lease agreements with Portside Solar. They would not put the health of their soil which is their livelihood at risk nor their family's health.

When the solar project is done the land must be returned to agricultural purposes under the Farmland Development Rights Agreement Act the farmer and solar company made with the State of Michigan.

I have faith in our township officials to do their due diligence in researching factual information on solar energy prior to making their decisions to approve this project as did the farmers who are leasing their land for the production of solar energy.

Sincerely,
Charlie Lewis

First Name

Chris

Last Name

Furness

Emaildemoc1950@gmail.com**City**

Fort Gratiot

Message

Dear Township Officials, I'm writing in support of the Portside Solar Project. This project will boost local tax revenue while creating hundreds of local in demand construction jobs and providing income for local farmers and community members. Additionally, the Portside Solar project will promote cleaner air and water for future generations.

First Name

Gwyn

Last Name

Lewis

Email

gwynatkinson@yahoo.com

City

North Street

Message

Dear Township Officials,

I'm writing in support of the Portside Solar Project in Fort Gratiot and Clyde Townships.

We believe in the importance of providing cleaner energy and water for future generations. We have been in discussions with Portside Solar and researched thoroughly for the past 2 years on the positive and negative impacts of solar panels and transmission lines.

Not only does this project create cleaner energy it also gives farmers a steady income to ensure that they can continue to farm for future generations even during bad crop years. Farming is an extremely unpredictable business much out of the control of farmers hands.

Landowners have the right to decide what to do with their property as they see fit. Farmers would not lease their land to solar energy if they were not confident that the soil will be properly taken care of. The soil is their livelihood. They would not put their family's health nor livelihood at risk.

I have confidence the township officials will do their best to make an informed decision and support this solar energy project.

Sincerely,
Gwyn Lewis

First Name

James

Last Name

Palmateer

Email

jamespalmateer@gmail.com

City

Fort Gratiot

Message

Dear Township Officials, I'm writing in support of the Portside Solar Project. This project will boost local tax revenue while creating hundreds of local in demand construction jobs and providing income for local farmers and community members. Additionally, the Portside Solar project will promote cleaner air and water for future generations. I hope you consider the wants of the property owners for this project. We have to look forward when it comes to our energy gird. Solar is one step in the right direction. It's going to happen why not have it in our community. Thank you

First Name

Jonathan

Last Name

Peters

Email

petersbrosfarms1@gmail.com

City

Memphis

Address

[2807](#)
[Stapleton rd](#)
[Michigan 48041](#)
[United States](#)
[Map It](#)

Message

Dear Township Officials, I'm writing in support of the Portside Solar Project. This project will boost local tax revenue while creating hundreds of local in demand construction jobs and providing income for local farmers and community members. Additionally, the Portside Solar project will promote cleaner air and water for future generations.

Address

[2807](#)
[Stapleton rd](#)
Memphis 48041
United States
[Map It](#)

First Name

Karen

Last Name

DeLong

Email

k24lewis@gmail.com

City

Knoxville

Message

Dear Township Officials,

My name is Karen Lewis DeLong. My residence is Knoxville, Tennessee, but I live with my parents in North Street, MI, two months of the year. My parents are Marty and Carol Ann Lewis, who have signed up land to be used for solar panels and transmission lines in Portside Solar's project. We 100% support this solar development in Fort Gratiot and Clyde Townships.

We extensively reviewed this project for almost 2 years with Portside Solar and did a ton of research to determine the economic, environmental, and community impact of this solar project. After these two years of research, I have no doubts about how beneficial this project will be to the farmers and residents of these townships.

I am a professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Tennessee. I have my PhD in agricultural economics. When I say we did research on the project, I do not mean we read misinformation that's been spread all over social media. We reviewed academic, government, unbiased, and science-grounded research. The federal government has a goal to decarbonize our electricity grid. The US department of energy includes in their decarbonization goal the expansion of solar power. It is up to our local communities to approve solar projects so we can meet US decarbonization goals.

It has been very alarming and sad to me to watch out of town residents spread misinformation to our township members over social media and witness what happened at the recent attempt of a public hearing at FG township.

I am confident our township officials will access accurate information and make the correct decision to approve this project. Farmers in the community have willingly signed contracts with Portside Solar to lease their land for this project. That means our farmers support this project. These leases will provide farmers with needed income to maintain and expand their agricultural operations. It is our farmers land. They should be able to use it how they want to.

My family wants solar panels on our land and we are the ones in closest proximity to seeing these panels. We are also fully confident that at the end of the solar project, these solar panels will be able to be removed and the land will be able to transition back to farmland. If our local farmers sold their land for a subdivision, the land would not be returnable to farming uses. Solar panels are a great innovation because of their ability to be removed and for the potential of dual purpose agricultural/solar systems where some agricultural activates can be completed in conjunction with the solar panels.

In closing, I support this project and look forward to Portside Solar breaking ground on construction of their project in the near future.

Sincerely,
Karen Lewis DeLong

First Name

Marshall

Last Name

Lewis

Email

marshalllewis@hotmail.com

City

North Street, MI

Message

Dear Township Officials,

My name is Marty Lewis and I live in North Street, MI. Our family has signed a lease to lease our land to Portside Solar for solar panels and transmission lines. We 100% support Portside Solar's project.

My family did extension research about solar panels prior to signing our lease with Portside Solar. We also hired a lawyer and extensively reviewed the contracts we signed with Portside Solar. We have no reservations or doubts about the benefits this project will provide FG and Clyde townships. This project will provide needed economic growth to the agricultural community. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to be a part of this project.

We will be able to use the revenue generated by this project to ensure our farm can be successfully transitioned to the next generation. Without opportunities for income like this, our farm might not continue to exist in future generations. Farmers need opportunities like these to successfully keep farming. Farming is a hard occupation with little liquidity. Having a field of solar panels as part of our farming operation will help diversify our operation and provide us with needed income to maintain and eventually grow our farm.

Many farmers in the community are very old and close to retirement. Our farm is one of the only active operations in the area that plans to continue. Therefore, we need the revenue from this solar project in order to lease or buy the land that is susceptible to transitioning out of agricultural uses.

If this project is not allowed to happen, you will be taking away revenue from your local farmers. Farmers do not deserve to be blocked from this opportunity. We steward our land and should be allowed to use it to make money. This opportunity provided to us from Portside Solar would be transformational to our ability to successfully farm, continue farming, and ensure farms continue to exist in Fort Gratiot and Clyde Townships. If residents want farms to continue to populate their landscapes, then they need to support this project.

Please feel free to contact us for any additional information. We support this project and are excited for the township to approve the proposal.

Sincerely,
Marty Lewis

First Name

Megan

Last Name

Palmateer

Email

thill1mn@gmail.com

City

Fort Gratiot Township

Message

Dear Township Officials,

I'm writing in support of the Portside Solar Project. This project will boost local tax revenue while creating hundreds of local in demand construction jobs and providing income for local farmers and community members. Additionally, the Portside Solar project will promote cleaner air and water for future generations.

My family is personally involved in this project because it is our land that is signed up. Our young family of four will be able to thrive and support our community now in more ways than we ever dreamed possible. This project will also help support our children and, hopefully, their children. My husband and I are natives to the area and staying local is very important to us. This project only helps solidify that we will be in this area for a very long time supporting local businesses and operations. This is happening because of your difficult and wonderful to decision to move forward with solar power. Thank YOU for supporting US.

Megan and James Palmateer

Dear Township Officials,

My name is Shari Furness, and I am writing to express my support for the Portside Solar Project.

The Furness farm has been in my family for over 100 years and is officially recognized as a Centennial farm. As you can probably guess, it has also seen some changes in that time: horses to tractors, buckets and milking stools to pipelines and a milking parlor, dairy to beef, and beef to currently, just crops. Today, the small family farm with no alternative income source is unsustainable and that is why we see less and less of them. The expenses (such as seed, herbicides, insecticides, fuel; repairs, maintenance, and upkeep of tractors and equipment; insurances for equipment, barns, structures, and land; property taxes, including the recent special assessment for county drains that also run through our property; and of course, time and labor, which are never-ending) needed to produce a healthy and strong crop far outweighs the profits.

My family does not want to lose the land. As I said, it has been ours for over 100 years and it will continue to be so, until we are all long gone. I will not see the land sold to a developer and watch a subdivision tear it all apart. Solar power is an alternative I would choose. This project would give my family an alternative source of income, as well as jobs and income to residents of Fort Gratiot township and its surrounding areas. Since the panels must be a certain distance from existing power lines, neighboring properties and structures, and county drains, some of the land cannot be utilized for the solar project, and therefore, will continue to be farmed. This is not an all-or-nothing scenario. Solar is clean and sustainable and may help to lessen our dependence on foreign energy sources. Michigan is moving towards renewable sources of energy and I would like to see Fort Gratiot do its part, by partnering with Portside Solar.

Thank you, Shari Furness

Dear Township Officials,

I am writing in Support of the Portside Solar Project. Our family has lived in Fort Gratiot Township since 1892. Crops have been produced on this farm continually during this time, giving us the title of centennial farm. Ted and I took over the farm in 1994, and have lived on this property since 1982. We have always paid our taxes on time, and tried to be courteous to our neighbors. But I believe respect goes both ways. It is time for us to enjoy retirement and we don't want to sell the land. Health problems make it difficult to grow crops, so we are supporting Portside Solar Project. We have the large DTE lines going through the middle of our property, which would limit a land developer for housing. The land use will be changing, and we believe solar is a great alternative to crops. We are happy to partner with Ranger Power in this solar project.

Thank you, Ted & Cynthia Furness

First Name

Trey

Last Name

DeLong

Email

jacdlong1@gmail.com

City

Knoxville

Message

Dear Township Officials,

I'm writing in support of the Portside Solar Project. My wife's family, Lewis Farms, farms in North Street, Michigan, and would benefit from this project. I am an engineer and helped them do research on solar panels prior to their decision to sign up for the project. We have no reservations about the benefit of a solar farm to the local community.

We support this project and look forward to working with Portside Solar in their project.

Sincerely,
Trey DeLong