## PORTSIDE SOLAR EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE LOG

Included in 10/10/2023 Packets:
10/02/2023 K.S.-FG, Opposed
10/03/2023 J. Wilson-FG, Opposed
10/04/2023 S. Beebe-FG, Opposed
10/05/2023 V. Coury-FG, Support
10/05/2023 C. Borko-FG, Opposed
10/06/2023 D. West-FG/300', Opposed
10/08/2023 K. Cislak-FG, Opposed
10/08/2023 S. Wachtel-FG, Opposed
10/09/2023 C. Stuewer-FG/300', Opposed
10/10/2023 T. Defrain-FG/300', Opposed
10/10/2023 A. Defrain-FG/300', Opposed
10/10/2023 A. Baer-FG, Opposed
10/10/2023 L. Butler-FG, Opposed
10/10/2023 J. Thelander-FG, Support

## Included in 11/08/2023 Packets:

Participating Property Owner Letters of Support
10/19/2023 Carol Lewis-Participating Parcels 5-9
10/19/2023 Charlie Lewis-Participating Parcels 5-9
10/19/2023 Chris Furness-Participating Parcels 10-14
10/19/2023 Gwyn Lewis-Participating Parcels 5-9
10/19/2023 James Palmateer-Participating Parcels 1-3, 15
10/19/2023 Jonathon Peters-Participating Parcels 16-17
10/19/2023 Karen DeLong-Participating Parcels 5-9
10/19/2023 Marshall Lewis-Participating Parcels 5-9
10/19/2023 Megan Palmateer-Participating Parcels 1-3, 15
10/19/2023 Shari Furness-Participating Parcels 10-14
10/19/2023 Ted and Cynthia Furness-Participating Parcels 10-14
10/19/2023 Trey DeLong-Participating Parcels 5-9

## Citizen Correspondence

10/10/2023 K. Czubak-FG, Opposed
10/11/2023 K. Kobberstad-Burtchville, Support
10/16/2023 E. Waddell-FG, Support
10/16/2023 J. Horvath-Shiawassee EDP, Support
10/18/2023 A. Mayhew-FG, Support
10/19/2023 J. Frank-Burtchville, Support
10/19/2023 V. Coury-FG, Support
10/19/2023 T. Francis-Port Huron, Support
10/19/2023 M. Buza-Sierra Club, Support
10/19/2023 N. Grant-Port Huron, Support
10/19/2023 P. Miller-Burtchville, Support
10/20/2023 G. \& J. Moss-FG, Support
10/20/2023 W. Beal-FG/300', Support with Conditions
10/29/2023 B. Hunckler-FG, Support
10/31/2023 C. Fuller-Grant, Opposed
11/03/2023 W. Teets-Clyde, Opposed
10/10/2023 Citizen Circulated Petition


Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 6:41 PM
To: Robert Crawford [rcrawford@fortgratiot.us](mailto:rcrawford@fortgratiot.us)
Subject: New Message (sent by contact form at Fort Gratiot)

First Name: Katherine
Last Name: Czubak
E-Mail:
Subject: Unequivocally Against Industrial Solar Farm

Message: Although I cannot attend the Zoning Commission meeting tonight, I want it on record that I against the proposed Solar Farm.
I am a home owner at
. I would have appreciated some sort of communication that a project this massive was even being considered, especially one that will impact my property value.

## First Name

Ken

## Last Name

## Kobberstad

## Email

Burtchville

## Message

 farmers and community members. Additionally, the Portside Solar project will promote cleaner air and water for future generations.From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Edmund Waddell
Monday, October 16, 2023 10:47 AM
Planning
RE: Proposed Solar Farm

Fort Gratiot, Michigan
October 16, 2023
Dear Fort Gratiot County Planning Commission and Township Board:
I wish to state my rationale and strong support and for the solar farm proposed by Portside Solar, LLC, and for Township approval of the Special Land Use and Site Plan.

Compatibility with Zoning: The proposed land use will collect sunlight and convert it to energy for use by local residents and others. That is precisely what any agricultural use does, so the proposed use is very compatible with existing agricultural zoning.

Benefits: The ongoing national expansion of electric vehicles will require additional electrical system capacity here and across the US, so the proposal serves a crucial emerging community need. The facility would also generate valuable local employment in that emerging technology. Everyone uses electricity.

Impacts: The proposed use would not create noxious emissions, odors, or noise. There is no significant increase in impervious surface and the land is still vegetated, so there would be no increase in stormwater runoff. The proposed use does not produce animal waste or apply chemical fertilizers or pesticides, so there is no potential impact on Lake Huron water quality - even less than other agricultural uses. Impacts are therefore negligible.

Traffic: Crucially, unlike any higher intensity land uses, a solar facility generates no traffic. In comparison, an alternative of new housing construction would generate about 10 new daily vehicle trips per dwelling unit, adding to the existing traffic loads on M-25, State Road, Metcalf, and other local roads. Neighborhood residential development of the same size would generate tens of thousands of vehicle trips per day. As long as the solar farm is in operation, no other development could occur on the parcels, and this would help constrain traffic growth in our area.

Mitigation: While almost everyone would like the world to stay the same, that is just not realistic. The only legitimate objection I have heard from other Township residents is that they do not want to look at the solar facility. That concern would be easily mitigated by planting a buffer strip (evergreen and deciduous trees) between the facility and adjacent homes. The solar farm would then look like any typical Michigan woodland.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your service to our community. I urge the Township to approve the proposed solar farm.

Sincerely,
Edmund Waddell
Fort Gratiot, MI, 48059

October 16, 2023
Dear Township Officials:

Representing the economic development organization serving Shiawassee County, I am writing this letter to discuss the economic impact that the 239 MW Assembly Solar project (the largest in the State of Michigan) has had on our county to date. I support the local economic gain resulting from the Portside Solar project and urge you to vote to approve it.

The benefits from the $\$ 250$ million project were and continue to be significant, including:

- Annual land lease payments that provide money that is spent in the community and also creates an income stream to strengthen farmers
- 400 workers were hired (mostly from the local area) as well as a few long-term employees to maintain the site
- Construction skills developed for many individuals that help them be more employable for future job opportunities
- Local business vendors were utilized (e.g. subcontracting work on-site, restaurants, hotels)
- Long-term property tax revenue for local governments and schools - Shiawassee County alone is collecting $\$ 800 \mathrm{k}$ annually

I would also like to note the positive experience we had in working with the Ranger Power team. They demonstrated a strong commitment to engagement with local stakeholders and a desire to be a good neighbor and community partner, and I am grateful for that.

If you have any questions on this information, please feel free to contact me at
or
Sincerely,


Justin Horvath
President/CEO
Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership

## Web Contact to Jorja Baldwin



Wed 10/18/2023 11:02 PM


## Recipient

Sender:
Message: Please see the letter below regarding the proposed installation of solar panels in Fort Gratiot Township. Aubree Mayhew Fort Gratiot, MI $48059 \quad$ October 18, 2023 St. Clair County Board of Commissioners 200 Grand River Ave., Suite 206 Port Huron, MI 48060 Subject: Support for Proposed Solar Panel Installation in Fort Gratiot Township Dear St. Clair County Board of Commissioners: I strongly support the proposed 900-acre solar panel installation in Fort Gratiot Township under Portside Solar, LLC. This project, initiated by Ranger Power, has the potential to bring numerous benefits to our community and the environment. First and foremost, installing solar panels will contribute to producing renewable energy. As we face the challenges of climate change and the need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, projects like this are crucial in transitioning to a more sustainable future. Additionally, the proposed solar panel installation will create job opportunities for residents during the construction phase and potentially, in the long term, for maintenance and operation. This can have a positive impact on our local economy and provide a boost to the community. I know that the Fort Gratiot Township Planning Commission is currently reviewing this project's site plans and land use permission. I urge the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners to support the township in its decision-making process and consider the long-term benefits this solar panel installation can bring our county. Furthermore, I would like to bring to your attention the recent resolution adopted by the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners opposing any legislation preempting local control for solar and wind developments. I commend the board for taking this stance and encourage you to continue supporting local control over such projects. In conclusion, the proposed solar panel installation in Fort Gratiot Township is a significant step towards a more sustainable future for our community. Please consider my support for this project and consider it in your decision-making process. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Sincerely, Aubree Mayhew

# Web Contact to Jorja Baldwin 



Thu 10/19/2023 8:48 AM


## Recipient

## Sender:

Message: Good morning Commissioner Baldwin, I would like to submit a letter in support of efforts to build solar farms in St. Clair County. As we transition from fossil fuels to cleaner sources of energy, a number of influence groups and PACs under the guise of protecting the enviroment have lobbied politicians and local governments to block solar farms. I have included a number of recent articles and pieces about these groups and thier influence in counties and on the media. Their tactic is to use "astroturfing" to oppose solar farms. "Astroturfing" is pretending to advocate for sound environmental policy when the real goal is to undermine it. This pretense is used also in advertising when corporations pretend to be environmentally friendly while at the same time disregarding our environment. The fossil fuel industry uses this strategy as well. As with any industry in our county, I agree that we should make the same demands of solar farms that we do industry and residential development, both of which are expesnive and displace more wildlife than solar farms do. It is interesting that these opponents are against private property rights, which they strenuously try to protect in other contexts. What it boils down to is that these organizations are manipulating folks into worries about their neighbors. The Not in My Backyard strain of Republicans are at it again. NIMBYs or rather Not in my neighbor's backyard are insisting that their neighbors not be allowed to lease their land for solar farms. It goes against their very own ideas about private property, which makes their position ironic since they are all too willing to zone farmland and timberland for subdivisions--which have a far greater impact--as well as industry. The NIMBYs are being influenced by dark money organziations who have flooded right wing echo chambers with claims of protecting the rural nature of our countryside. These organizations are led by former insiders in the GOP with connections to fossil fuels. They use environmental protection claims cynically to advance their own ends, which is to undermine renewable power under the guise of protecting the environment. Classic astroturfing. Simply, these organizations are doing the fossil fuel corporations' bidding and are likely funded by them. Here are a couple of articles about their efforts: https://www.npr.org/2023/02/18/1154867064/solar-power-misinformation-activists-rural-america?utm_medium=email https://gizmodo.com/citizens-for-responsible-solar-susan-ralston-npr-1850141936 https://www.eenews.net/articles/meet-the-nimby-people-trying-to-kill-solar/
https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/18/nyregion/solar-energy-farms-ny.html As you can see in the Open Secrets monitoring of PAC's, this group overwhelmingly supports Republicans: https://www.opensecrets.org/political-action-committees-pacs/citizens-for-responsible-energy-solutions/C00625145/summary/2020 Here are some points that are factual: Solar power does not cause immediate health risks to neighbors or wildlife. Solar power panels do not leach dangerous elements into the environment. Solar power panels if disposed of properly do not create a biohazard. Solar will help us transition to cleaner sources of energy. Solar power can be used to support the energy grid. Solar power is efficient and will generate cheap electricity for neighbors. Moreover, the anti-solar group is anti-private property rights. The anti-solar group is astroturfing: they pretend to support green policies but are secretly manipulating rural areas to support fossil fuel industry. Suburban development and its costs for utilities, services, and roads causes more harm to the rural areas of the county than solar power. Please move to support solar farms in our county. Thank your for considering my letter and taking a longer look at the forces opposed to solar farms. Sincerely, Jim Frank Burtchville, MI

## solar energy



Thu 10/19/2023 12:10 PM


EMAIL ORIGIN EXTERNAL: Use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

I am writing to support the two local solar energy projects which meet all local and state standards, as well as meet standards to provide for the disposal of the project if at some point in the future they need to be dismantled.

Virainia Coury
Fort Gratiot Twp, MI 48059

## Solar Energy in St. Clair County



EMAIL ORIGIN EXTERNAL: Use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Mr. Rushing and Mr. Simasko,
I want to write in support of our local farmers and their interest in leasing their land to solar energy companies. It is their land and their business model Having cleaner energy in St Clair County is not a detriment to society our lives or our ability to have food on our tables. As well, basic science will show, it will work in our climate, regardless of our sunny days (if that is an argument you ever try to use, it is false). As commissioners who claim to want local governments to govern locally; it certainly seems as though that is only when it pleases you and your personal goals/interests.

Leave this to the land owners, townships of Clyde and Fort Gratiot, and their residents.
$\sim$ Tiffany Francis, District 2 Resident

Michael

Address


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 have written addition comments.

To whom it may concern,
This is Mike Buza from the Sierra Club. I am the chair of the Legislative Committee of the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club is the largest environmental organization in the United States. We are very active in any area that might be harmful to the environment or the health of people or animals.

I have been to over 100 township meetings in thew State to discuss the benefits of solar and wind farms. I hear all kinds of misinformation. I hear such things as they poison the ground water, hurt the local wildlife population and emit electromagnetic waves. If any of these issues were true the Sierra Club would be fighting against the siting of solar and wind farms. The reason we do not try to keep solar from being developed because it is superior on all health and safety metrics vs fossil fuel and nuclear.

Some of the other areas that solar if better than fossil fuel is that it is cheaper. It also brings general income into the community in which it is sited as well as tax revenue. Communities would benefit from the tax revenue that solar provides.

The misinformation spread about solar violates many of the principles of a community. The way solar is kept out of a community is excessive regulation. This excessive regulation keeps farmers/landowners from doing with their land as they see fit. Far less use of poisonous herbicides and pesticides are used when solar is on the land instead crops. The irony is landowners are kept from putting solar on their land because of false claims they poison the land. It is also an irony when landowners want to use their land to benefit the community, they are kept form doing so by excessive regulations. This violation of land rights has no excuse.

How does this happen? If the electrification of our society comes to past it will put the fossil fuel industry out of business. This trillion-dollar industry puts much disinformation on the internet with their deep pockets. People do "research" on the
internet with good intentions and run into these lies masquerading as the truth. It is understandable that people are angry when they are fed this disinformation. It is hoped that you see through this disinformation campaign and do what is right for your community.

If you have any questions on this matter, please feel free to contact me at

First Name
Nancy

## Last Name

Grant

## Email

City
Port Huron

## 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 support bringing this project to our community especially because of the benefit it will cause for our farmers who are a part of this project. I also personally support green energy.

Sincerely,
Nancy Streeter Grant.

## First Name

Patricia

## Last Name

Miller

## Email

City
Burtchville

## Message

Dear Township Officials, I'm writing in support of the Portside Solar Project. This project will boost local tax revenue. People have the right to do what they want with their land. Farmers and landowners will benefit from the income. Additionally, the Portside Solar project will promote cleaner air and water for future generations.

Planning


Sent from my iPhone
Jodi L Moss

We are Not against the solar farms. We will not be at the meeting as we will be gone to FL. Please consider our choice. Thank you,
Gary and Jodi Moss

Planning

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Wills Garage <
Friday, October 20, 2023 11:18 PM
Planning
Solar stuff

The lady going around with the no solar petition has decided to use my driveway to meetup with random people twice now, it looks like drug deals taking place in my driveway to be honest and I have kids this is unacceptable. I did sign her petition when she came over but she woke me up and I do not wish for my name to be counted on that document. I would support a solar project and think people should have freedom to do what they want with their land within reason. I do say maybe requireing recycling for such a large scale opperation and possibly even fencing in some areas so people dont have to look at it. But it can potentially save lives.. dte sucks...

Thank you,
William Beal

From:
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 3:53 PM
To:
Subject:

Robert Hunckler
Planning; Robert Buechler
Say Yes to Michigan Solar

Hello,
My name is Bob Hunckler and I am a geography professor at SC4 (full-time since the fall of 2000) and my students do research on energy resources each semester. Here are some of the basics:
A. $\sim 20 \%$ of electricity in the U.S. is produced using coal.
B. $\sim 40 \%$ of electricity in the U.S. is produced using natural gas.
C. China consumes 4 times more coal than any other country and they constitute more than $50 \%$ of the world's consumption of coal each year.
D. It is estimated that China only has about 30-35 years of coal left in the ground.
E. As China runs out of coal, the price of coal will skyrocket no matter how much coal exists in the U.S. DTE knows this and that's partially why they (and other power companies) are switching to natural gas and other sources.

Now let's look at natural gas:
F. It's true that the burning of natural gas releases less carbon into the atmosphere vs. coal. It is a much cleaner-burning fossil fuel. That's good.
G. The process of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) has allowed companies to extract more natural gas from their wells. Although hydraulic fracturing was first developed in the 1940s, the technique had not been used on a massive scale until 2003-2005 when the EPA said that fracking posed no threat to the groundwater and the process was also exempted from the Clean Water Drinking Act (both highly controversial decisions with science refuting the philosophies behind such changes in the law).
H. Chemicals used in the fracking process include benzene, gelling agents, crosslinkers, friction reducers, corrosion inhibitors, scale inhibitors, biocides and, in some cases, diesel fuel. Not all of these chemicals are extracted once the natural gas is captured. 20 to $40 \%$ of the chemicals stay in the ground.
I. In addition, the fracking process consumes massive amounts of water. It's no wonder that Texas, Oklahoma and other states are wanting to tap into our Great Lakes. It's an irresponsible use of water when the world is very thirsty these days. Clean water is becoming critically scarce worldwide-especially in semi-arid areas like Texas and Oklahoma.
J. Natural gas is very cheap to use, but the true cost of using natural gas and using up our clean water in this fashion is being passed on to future generations. Our grandchildren and greatgrandchildren will have to live in a world where clean water is even more scarce. Or they will have to
deal with the fact that Texas and Oklahoma have built a pipeline from the Great Lakes and really messed things up for us.

## Solar:

K. China has more solar capacity than the United States. This is more than just a "space race" type of competition. Keeping up with China on the energy front is part of our national security and economic security. If supplies of coal or natural gas suddenly run out, we need to be in the same boat as China and other countries (with similar wind and solar capacity-- nuclear too). If we aren't in the same boat, then things start to get crazy and our great-grandchildren will have to deal with that too (World War 3 or 4 or whatever).

So the installation of solar farms might not be the dream that we hoped for our local land. It might not be the best situation for the deer and the wildlife. But imagine a world where the Great Lakes have dropped 40-50 feet because of Texas and Oklahoma and others gobbling up the water due to fracking and imagine a world where our groundwater is contaminated with chemicals left behind by fracking companies. Where will our next glass of water come from? We have 8 billion people in the world and we've never had that before. It's largely due to electricity (refrigeration, medical procedures, medicine production, water filtration, sewage treatment, crop processing, food packaging, computers to run it all) and all of the things that keep us healthy and allow for a such a huge population. We cannot go back to how we lived in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. We didn't have such a large population back then. We have to think about our great-grandchildren and not place the cost of our "cheap energy" on them.

The sun is pounding the earth with energy every day. Michigan is actually a better place for solar panels than Arizona because of our cooler temperatures. The solar panels in Arizona need to include coolant flowing through the back sides because the panels would melt otherwise. Michigan solar panels work great even on cloudy days. The technology of solar panels has really progressed. It works and we have it available to us right here.

I see this decision as something very patriotic and generous to our future generations. The decision is ours to make.

Feel free to browse the energy info at the following URL:
$\underline{\text { http://www.sc4geography.net/geography/EarthScience/energy.resources.lab.exercise.html }}$
Bob Hunckler (he/him/his)
Geography Professor
St. Clair County Community College
Port Huron, MI 48060

From:
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:32 PM
To: Baldwin, Jorja
Subject: Web Contact to Jorja Baldwin

10-30-23 St. Clair County Board of Commissioners I would like to express some of my views on the push for solar power being done in our county, our state, our nation. I would like to propose first that we return to some common sense evaluation of the situation and then have our representatives lead by example to give us some frame of reference before we invest any time, space, energy (no pun intended) to this push. Here is what I mean when I say we must first return to some common sense in the need for alternate power. Let's look at the areas in which a tremendous amount of energy is being wasted. The greatest energy amount of waste I would argue is in corporate world, not among private citizens. When businesses close for the day, people leave without shutting down computers. Many of those monitors are never set to power save mode and screens are bright as can be all night long. Some mid-sized locations could have as many as 50 screens where this is the wasteful practice. In many showrooms (auto dealerships, furniture or appliance stores, etc.) large screen TVs are left on and running, scrolling beautiful displays of products, in some places five or six screens. In many waiting rooms and service customer lounges even more TVs are left on running cooking shows, animal shows, news programs, or bloopers to occupy customers who haven't been there as many as 14 hours since close of business the day prior. This happens 7 days every week, as many as 18 hours each day that no one is there. I can't imagine the amount of hours of waste each and every year. Shouldn't we first put a stop to waste like this before forcing outrageously priced systems on citizens and communities and filling land better suited to serving native plant and animal species already in drastic decline? I'm not guessing or making up this information. To verify, I urge you to contact various cleaning companies within our county to verify this. They can tell you that when they enter facilities they are responsible for cleaning during off hours that this occurs. But there is so much more that could be done to stop waste. There seems to be a push for every township in our area to invest in costly LED brightly glowing signs that are on and scrolling displays of various information 24 hours each and every day. I don't know how other people feel about them, but I consider them to be completely wasteful and an eye sore. Is there a reason they need to be on 24 hours each and every day? Are we certain that at 2:17 AM when someone may be returning home after "last call" at some local bar that a person is in dire need to be reminded of an upcoming zoning committee meeting that has occured on the same day of each month for over 50 years now (as an example)? Same said person doesn't need that sign to inform him/her that it's 2:17 AM or that it's $42^{\circ}$ at that time. Our cars, watches, phones all provide that information. We need to understand clearly that part of our waste in terms of money and energy is from a wasteful system of information overload we have created. I will ask again, is the information that those bright township signs blink out 24 hours every single day really necessary? I'm going to say "Absolutely not!" and here's why: the township has already put all the information needed by its citizens on a complete and useful website in which it has invested money for its creation (1), the same information has been printed and then posted in a location on premises clearly visible to citizens even when the building is closed (2), and it has already copied and mailed every resident that same said information (3). That sign then becomes the fourth time that information has been shared. Waste! Waste of time and money! And to anyone living near those bright blinking lights after hours, I bet they wish the signs were turned off. So here is what I propose... Find a way to provide grant money to those townships still insisting on running their LED signs despite their having also a stationary physical sign which more attractively displays their name in non-light traditional form, to put in place a solar panel that supplies energy to run their wasteful LED signage. This works to cut cost to residents, reduces the wasteful demand on power grids, and best of all puts the townships in a position to lead by example before forcing solar systems on citizens who recognize but are unable to stop the waste.. The second step in a process I am suggesting is, if our township officials find solar systems are good enough for their signs, then ask businesses in our communities who insist upon lighting their signs as well, to obtain solar panels (cost to them) to supply
energy to their signs as well. The same reason applies. So often the signs are on for hours upon hours when business is closed and there is no need. I also see that so many of these businesses are located in areas where at cost to citizens their storefronts/businesses are already conveniently and sufficiently lit by street lighting systems put in by municipalities. Some businesses are lit up like carnival midways long after close of business with their added LED displays. Waste! Car companies are realizing now and voicing concerns just this week that people don't want EVs they have invested billions in developing and producing. Citizens see the hypocrisy in charging (so called) "green" cars at charging stations powered by fossil fuel created electricity. I would propose that those charging stations, such as the ones at Thomas Edison Inn, now be supplied with solar panels rather than the old power lines. I'm no rocket scientist, just a simple fifth grade teacher, but I know a simple mechanism could have been added to each EV that would use the rotation of wheel systems to further supply the car with energy while in use. I will never understand why that hasn't been done all the while certain powers that be are trying to force wind turbines on us. Same principle. So if EVs are still going to be pushed, let them use solar panels. If solar is so useful that it's even being considered to be forced on the citizenry, then we first want examples of it in use. We first need to see a need for it. We first need to know that we aren't being asked to supply way more energy than is really needed. Please make some decisions first to reduce waste and then put yourselves in a position to lead by example.

Thank you for your service to this community, Carey Fuller Grant Township Resident

## Portside Solar - Fort Gratiot \& Clyde Twp.



Portside Solar Location - Fort Gratiot Twp.
Times Herald - 10/21/2023



Ranger Power LLC, North Morgan Street, Chicago, IL 60607 - Searched Google Maps with no address identified.

- No actual address - Street No. or Suite \# ID.
- Which location is actually being occupied by this "BUISNESS" operation...? Ranger Power LLC doesn't have anything other than a Administration and Management TEAM.


Ranger Power LL Chicago, IL 60607 - Phone (240) 437-2685 - Community Membership in Lincoln, IL shows less than 25. 34 People on site. Only Google review: Bob Marley (no text - 4 star) -- Musician -- Bob Marley Died on May 11, 1981

- \$250 Million Project in Shiawausee County (M-13) apparently an eye sore to the community...
- Each Solar Panel will take 10-12 years to recover the costs to pay for the installation. (Equally for the completed Project) However - Michigan cloudy skies will add time to recovery of the costs... In the Michigan Winter (Sunlight and Daytime) the Solar Panels will be at $15 \%$ efficiency.
- Who's paying for the Solar Project installation? Who's paying for the Project Maintenance? Who's paying for the decommissioning in 25 years?


## - Longer payback

- Forty states require net metering for self-generators, according to the federally-funded Database of State Incentives for Renewables \& Efficiency.
- But Michigan is among several states rethinking compensation for rooftop solar. That includes Indiana, whose Legislature replaced metering in 2017 with a program lowering compensation to solar owners. The change fueled a 93 percent plunge in growth for the state's solar industry, according to the Indianapolis Star.
- Michigan's new "inflow-outflow" model still credits customers for extra electricity, but only after subtracting presumed transmission costs. The model will first apply to new DTE customers, and it will guide regulators the next time they consider new rates for Consumers Energy and other utilities in Michigan.


[^0]- Sally Talberg, who chairs the Public Service Commission, said the new policy "fully compensates the customer for energy and capacity," and reflects a legislative directive to overhaul the program. She said interest in the decision was "unprecedented" - 3,000-plus public comments - mostly in support of the state's original policy.
- Customers like Warner won't immediately see their credits change. They can finish their contracts with DTE, earning surplus power at retail rates for up to 10 years. Credits for new customers will shrink by about 45 percent.
- Homeowners who pay $\$ 11,000$ after a 30 percent federal tax credit to install a 6.28 -kilowatt solar system, for instance, could have recouped their investment after nine years through net metering. The new policy would push the payback to 13 years.
- DTE wanted the commission to slash credits even further while adding a roughly \$15 per-month "system access fee." That rejected proposal would have lengthened payback to nearly 18 years.
- Jayson Waller, CEO of installer POWERHOME Solar, said the overhaul could lower demand for installations and his profits. The company has 300 employees in Michigan, its largest market across seven states and the only one ditching net metering.
- "We're going to find some financing," Waller said. "We'll find a way...to let folks own their power in Michigan, because they deserve choice."
- Tom Gallery, owner and engineer for Northport-based Leelanau Solar, expects the changes to gradually kill small-scale solar power in Michigan.
- That's based on his experience installing solar panels inside the six-county territory of Cherryland Electric Co-op, which serves 35,000 customers in the Northwest Lower Peninsula and is not regulated by the state.
- Cherryland last year slashed solar credits by 47 percent, and new installations screeched to a halt, Gallery said.
- "Once the payback [on the investment] goes over 10 years, people just roll their eyes and walk away," he said.
- These figures are for reference - Value and Payback and/or cost recovery...


Here is where Dun and Bradstreet lists the Corporate Address... Ranger Power LLC
Jersey City, New Jersey 07305

## Adam Cohen - CEO

When is Ranger Power LLC scheduled to be non-existing...? Bankrupt, defunct...?

- Who's paying for the Portside Solar Project...? Who will pay for the removal and re-working the land to original status...?
- Warren B. Teets - Automation Engineering - Huron Design Inc., Clyde Township, MI

11/2/2023

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From:
To:
Subject:
Date:
Attachments:
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Thank you for the things you do for others,

Rob Crawford, Supervisor
Fort Gratiot Charter Township
St. Clair County EDA Director
Fort Gratiot Rotarian
3720 Keewahdin Road
Fort Gratiot Michigan 48059
Phone: 810-385-4489
Mobile: 810-650-0234


From: judy wilton
Sent: Saturday, November 4, 2023 9:45 AM
To: Robert Crawford
Subject: Solar Field

I urge you to vote NO on the proposed solar field that is being proposed! This community does NOT want it and your job is supposed to represent the WHOLE COMMUNITY NOT JUST A FEW!!!

| From: |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| To: |  |
| Subject: | Fw: New Message (sent by contact form at Fort Gratiot) |
| Date: | Monday, November 6, 2023 1:09:19 PM |
| Attachments: | $\underline{\text { Outlook-ystao3w3.png }}$ |

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Phone: 810-385-4489
Mobile: 810-650-0234


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From:
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 11:06 AM
To: Robert Crawford
Subject: New Message (sent by contact form at Fort Gratiot)
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First Name: Stephanie \& Joe
Last Name: Helton
E-Mail:
Subject: Proposed Solar Farm
Message: Fort Gratiot Township Leadership:
Just a quick note of complete support for the proposed Fort Gratiot solar farm. As Fort Gratiot residents, we are asking that the township do everything in its power to ensure this and other opportunities around green energy are embraced and fully utilized! We have to do everything we can to preserve our environment for generations to come.

Thank you-
Joe \& Stephanie Helton
5133 Lakeshore Road, Fort Gratiot

Planning

|  |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| From: | Ellen Walczak < |
| Sent: | Monday, November 6, 2023 4:20 PM |
| To: | AJ Armbruster; George Kish; Linda Bruckner; |
|  | Robert Crawford; Scott Bradley; Fort Gratiot Twp Treasurer; Vicki Ostrander |
| Subject: | NO industrial solar facility in Fort Gratiot |

As a resident of Fort Gratiot Township, Fort Gratiot Township planning commission must vote NO on the special land use application!

Planning


As a resident of Fort Gratiot Township, Fort Gratiot Township planning commission must vote NO on the special land use application!

| From: | Richard West < |
| :--- | :--- |
| Sent: | Tuesday, November 7, 2023 2:46 PM |
| To: | Planning |
| Subject: | Solar Project- DO NOT SUPPORT! |

Good afternoon,

I am writing in response to the current solar project that is proposed to be happening in Fort Gratiot Twp. My name is Richard James West, son of Richard and Angela West who live at 5321 State Road, Fort Gratiot Twp. My grandparents Robert and Linda Wessel live next door to my parents at 5325 State Road, Fort Gratiot Twp. Between these 2 pieces of property they own approximately 50 acres of agricultural land and have been approached numerous times in the last year about signing a lease for solar.

My grandparents inherited this property from my great grandparents in the late 1980's and it has been in the family ever since, and I plan on taking over this property when the time comes to hopefully pass it down to my children in the future. But that is all getting put in jeopardy if this solar project moves forward. I could not bear raising my 3 children on a property surrounded by these solar panels. I am writing as a concerned future citizen of your township. As someone who has moved away to attend college, I was drawn back to the Fort Gratiot area, not only because of family, but because of the landscape as well. I have always been amazed at what our township has to offer as far as commercial opportunity, to the large area of agricultural land that supports many of its citizens. To start infringing on the agricultural property is wrong and not what it was ever intended to be used for. I am 33 years old and grew up in Fort Gratiot and now currently live in Burtchville Twp, on Jeddo Road, and would hate to see a project such as this gain steam and move forward as it would have detrimental effects on all of the surrounding areas.

My grandparent's neighbors to the North of them have already signed on and I understand everyone has their reasons...and can't fault them for those reasons.....but as a current outsider looking in, I don't see how any of the people who are going to be near these solar farms are going to benefit from this....other than monetarily. Several of the properties they have already signed leases with are property owners who don't even have a residence in Fort Gratiot Twp.

After doing some research on solar energy, one cannot argue that it has many downfalls, including its major inefficiencies, let alone the noise they put off, the aesthetics, and potential contamination that could happen if one were to break or wear after years of abuse from the weather. What happens after their 20 yr lease is expired and they elect not to renew, who pays for the clean up?

I just don't see this as a viable option for Fort Gratiot Twp. It is wrong to allow it and it is wrong that this has gotten this far without the voices of your township having an input. I hope with the overwhelming responses you have already received, plus the voices of the 1000's of people that will be attending tomorrow's meeting that you do whatever you can to put a stop to this project before it can even get going.

Regards,
Richard James West
4633 Jeddo Rd
Burtchville, MI 48059

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112023
$$

DEAR SIR OR MAM
My, name Is wiLLiam D. Pirkard And $\frac{I}{L}$ Am WRIting THis Letter, I HAVE Been FARming oVer 60 year's, IM A FouRth Generation Farmer! $\frac{T}{2}$ Farms In grant Townspifi ¿ Li de Township, Buetchville, Township and Fort ration township. our Food Dotes not ane From The Super maRket, It Comes From FGRM 5 . without FARM', AO FOO d opal Ulaxign f hat needing ouse Foo. Sa I Ask you
please print Ruin ouR very productive Pa nd In Fort frat lot It I's The Most Fertile Soil In The State of michigan If Don't want to see these danger aus soliot Panelist Ruin the soil And make I Toxic To My, wiFe, ME and my chitdres! IF The state Fanti To Gro Green PLant MORE Tree's. And We should a insider Hydro hike the Do In I rhoda. It's working For them,
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SincereLy
Williams R. Pis pond

My name is Angela West and I along with my husband, Richard, reside at 5321 State Rd. He has already sent you an email back in October ahead of the originally scheduled meeting on October 10th. Our stance is still a hard NO to this proposed project!
We are, as you know, directly affected by this proposed solar project. It essentially surrounds us on 3 sides. It also borders the creek to the back of our family's property. All of the research and information that we have read, listened to and studied since this has come to light is inundating and downright frightening. If what we've seen to be true, the noise it generates alone, would be enough to make us want to move, that's if anyone would even buy a house located next to this abomination. What will it do to our property values? How would anyone on this planning commission feel if this were proposed adjacent to their property? So please consider this when making your decision. There are so many other questions and concerns that we deserve to have answers to, but at this point, I'm not sure if it will make a difference. We've "heard" that this is a "done deal" and your township "screwed up" and we really hope that is not the case. We would like to know the actual benefits to our community and residents, besides the 5 landowners looking to line their pockets. Of the 5 landowners, only 2 live on or near the proposed project. They should all have to live within the sight and earshot of this project and face the consequences of their decisions, like we will, only at a detriment to our lives and homes. We honestly don't even understand why this is an issue we are even considering in our community, other than, simply put, MONEY! Money for the landowners and money for the township.
We would also like to know how many letters of support you've received, besides the landowners, versus how many you've received against it? A question that hopefully you can answer tomorrow. Also, who will benefit from the power that is generated from this project? We could go on and on but hopefully, again, all these questions can be answered tomorrow. We were happy to speak with The Times Herald a couple weeks ago to make people aware of our concerns. For us and our future generations that are to inherit this property that my grandparents bought in the early 60's, it most definitely leaves us worried about the noise, what it will do to our well water, the environment, the wildlife and so many other things, all of which must be addressed.
This planning commission was appointed, some of you many years ago, to make decisions on what is best for Fort Gratiot Township. Our township board was elected to do what is best for the majority of our community. This Portside Solar project does not positively impact our community in any way, shape or form.
Thank you for your time and consideration. We will leave you with this......maybe just maybe try to put yourself in our shoes. Again, how would you feel (and vote) if this were proposed right next to where you live? Would that make a difference? I think so.
Respectfully submitted,
Angela \& Richard West
5321 State Rd
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059

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We are asking the Fort Gratiot Township Board of Trustees, Planning and Zoning Boards to deny or postpone decisions on applications of use and land that would allow for industrial solar facilities in Fort Gratiot Township. We are asking that the Trustees, Planning and Zoning boards preserve our township's agriculture setting.
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[^0]:    *Outflow Credit @ power-supply less transmission:
    7.477 cents/kWh for 1 st 17 kWh per day;
    **Includes System Access Charge (SAC) @ \$14.51/month, and Outflow Credit @ MISO 2018 monthly average real-time LMP 3.25 Cents/kWh]

