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Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 5:13 PM
To: Planning & Development <plandev@countyofdane.com>
Cc: bkollenbroich@townofdunnwi.gov
Subject: UW Solar Field Opposition

My name is Mary Martinson, I have been a resident of the Town of Dunn for 50 years. I live on 2085 Green Road. I oppose the UW's proposed solar field at 3725 Schneider Drive for multiple reasons. The first of which having to do with the Town of Dunn's lack of communication to its residents. I have obtained the signatures of 60 Town of Dunn residents, most of whom are within one mile of the proposed site. All but one of these residents were unaware of the project. As tax-payers, they rightfully should have been notified of such proposal. It seems that the town avoided doing so in fear of causing conflict with residents. A subject this controversial should have been publicized and given significantly more attention. I am now aware that on September 27th, 2022, the Town of Dunn posted the upcoming meeting for October 10th regarding the UW's proposal. It should not be our responsibility as residents to regularly search the town website to find vital information that will affect us, such as the topic of this meeting. Many older residents do not have access and/or the ability to successfully find this information using the internet.

As a person who has continuously made choices to protect my health and the health of my family, I feel defeated, being that there are so many unknown factors with solar. We will be forced to be a part of this experiment with no control or voice in the situation. There is a huge objective to put more solar fields in place and deal with the consequences later. Aside from the many claims linking solar fields to health hazards, the EPA remains private about their effects. "The EPA says some solar panels are hazardous waste... depending on the leachability of RCRA (Resource, Conservation and Recovery Act) toxic materials present", and "EPA cannot say definitely if all solar panels are or are not hazardous waste" [epa.gov]. I searched through many websites and articles displaying multiple negative impacts on humans and the environment from solar panels. These facts should be taken into consideration, given that they came from trusted sources, even if they were not government-certified. As humans, we are constantly fighting against harmful exposures, many that we have the ability to control. This project would take that element of choice away for us.

Taken directly from their 2022 Fall Newsletter, "for the past 26 years, the Town of Dunn has been a state-leader in land conservation, protecting 4,000 acres from development through the town's PDR program... The PDR program works to protect town land from development, (particularly viable and workable farmland)." With this project in mind, a solar field will be implemented at the expense of losing working farmland. The towns' criteria is to avoid areas used for crop production: a criteria that is completely overlooked in this situation. The town has been working on this project with UW for a year and a half, with three newsletters sent to residents within that period. This solar project could have easily been mentioned but instead the environmental work and PDR work was extenuated, disregarding the solar project in question that is aiming to negate a lot of these positive impacts.

The PDR has also put forth countless efforts to preserve the towns' wetlands. This solar field will put our wetlands, along with our protected wildlife at risk. The Sandhill Crane, one of these protected animals, is the equivalent of the town mascot. My concerns of ground water and soil contamination heighten as a result of the location being near Lake Kegonsa and the stream that feeds it. With the slope of the land surrounding it, runoff into the water source will be seemingly unavoidable. We annually experience flooding rains and heavy snow melt in the spring which results in runoff that ends up in the nearby navigable stream and eventually reaching nearby Lake Kegonsa.

We are very fortunate to call the Town of Dunn home. Many of us have been here for all our lives. It is unfair to those who live in the town (tax-payers) to have no say in a project that goes against all of what the town has worked for years to preserve.

A research project for UW students would be less wasteful for the environment, if they were to work with Alliant Energy to do their research in established solar fields, rather than destroying preserved farmland. If the objective of this solar field is for research, an alternative to abusing farmland would be to monitor a solar field that is already in use. There are several fields already in operation in the Madison area, all of which are much closer than this Town of Dunn site.

Lastly, the property values in our neighborhood will surely decrease due to this implementation. With all of this being said: we, as residents of this town and close neighbors of this location will not gain any sort of positive outcomes from the planned project.

I have attached the documents of the 60 signatures, and also a statement from Steve Ace, as he does not have email.