

## Statement For Dane County ZLR

June 8, 2021

My name is Mary Gjerme, and I live in the Village of Cambridge.

I listened to your comments and questions for Dan Litchfield at your April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. I was glad to hear your concern about developers needing to be good neighbors.

The Village of Cambridge has repeatedly asked Invenergy to stay out of its ETJ. And yet you will see in its application to the PSC filed on April 15<sup>th</sup>, just 2 days later, that Invenergy still plans to go right up to the edge of Cambridge on its western and southern borders. How is this being a good neighbor?

Most solar facilities in Wisconsin are in the 20-100 MW range and require a CUP. The proposed Koshkonong Solar Center by-passes local zoning and will cover 5,800 acres of good farmland. The initial phase will bring 300 MW of solar arrays and a huge battery storage facility (165 MW).

I grew up outside of Cambridge in the town of Christiana. I am the 5<sup>th</sup> generation on the Koshkonong Prairie, descended from Norwegian pioneer farmers who claimed the land in 1840. They arrived on foot with an ox cart, following a dirt path. They lived in dugouts while clearing the land with primitive tools. They grew crops and raised livestock on the land. Eventually they built proper houses, then churches, then schools. I am sure they are turning over in their graves at the thought of this beautiful prairie becoming an energy wasteland.

The Village of Cambridge has been known for decades as a charming village with specialty shops, potteries, and restaurants. With Lake Ripley to the east, we've always been a tourist destination. Dane County's investment in the Cam Rock parks and The Connector Bike Trail have brought new groups of people to the Village for outdoor recreation. The short drive from Madison to Cambridge past pastoral farmland appeals to shoppers, diners and day trippers. If Invenergy succeeds, this landscape will all be gone by 2024, replaced by thousands of acres of solar panels and one of the largest battery storage facilities in the country.

We do not want this massive project. It is too large and much too close to the village. Who will want to move to Cambridge? Where will there be room for future residential and commercial development when Koshkonong Solar will cover the entire ETJ? How can Dane County support this proposal?

Yes, we need sources of renewable energy but not like this! We have already accommodated a natural gas fired plant developed by Invenergy's owner, Michael Polsky, a natural gas pipeline from Enbridge, as well as overhead transmission lines. Hasn't the Cambridge community already sacrificed enough? Please support the preservation of our farmland and future growth of our Village by challenging the proposed Koshkonong Solar Center.

I also encourage the County to hold a public hearing on the proposed facility and to listen to the concerns of the residents of the Village and of the Township.