

CLARK COALITION

PO Box 596 | Winchester, KY 40392

In re: Solar Ordinance Committee

October 27th, 2020

Dear Mr. Disney and Committee Members,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of the Clark Coalition, an organization dedicated to promoting smart-growth, sustainable economic development, and government transparency in Winchester-Clark County.

The question of if, and how, to accommodate industrial-scale solar development is a significant fiscal, land-use, and environmental issue that will impact every corner of our community—from our quality of life, to our iconic agricultural landscape and job creation strategies.

As such, Winchester-Clark County deserves a thorough, transparent, and pragmatic process through which we can determine the appropriateness of industrial-scale solar development, and if needed, identify the very best ways to accommodate this use. Without such a process, our unique community—and our tax payers—stand to lose much, and gain little from industrial solar.

For these reasons, the Clark Coalition respectfully requests that Winchester-Clark County follow the recommendation of the American Planning Association, and convene the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee—so it can “review and amend our Comprehensive Plan to align with how our community wants to regulate utility-scale solar uses.”¹

Under KRS 100 and Kentucky law, the Comprehensive Plan sets the stage for all land-uses, and related planning and zoning ordinances in Clark County. Therefore, it is the very foundation for how our community grows and functions...today and in the future.

To get it right, this legislative process importantly incorporates relevant data and research, along with extensive public input to determine the very best strategies for managing development over time. Winchester-Clark County and its citizens deserve no less.

Needless to say, we have an opportunity to learn from other municipalities that have experience with utility-scale solar development. While we may take advantage of such data, we must also understand how it applies in our own backyard...and only through extensive public comment can we understand industrial solar in the context of our own, special community.

¹ Coffey, Darren. “Planning for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Facilities.” American Planning Association, September/October 2019

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Therefore, we respectfully request that Winchester-Clark County convene and empower the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee to address the appropriateness and regulation of industrial-solar facilities in moving forward. Clark Coalition stands ready to actively participate in, and contribute to this most essential process.

Thank you for your consideration and dedication to our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Mayer
Executive Director
Clark Coalition