

From: [BRENDA PETERSON](#)
To: [Storm, Bill \(COMM\)](#)
Cc: searchers5757@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Clear Lake Township Solar Panels
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 5:09:54 PM

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As a lifelong resident of Clear Lake Township whose ancestry dates back to 1856 as farmers along the Mississippi River I'd like to have my opinion heard.

I do not believe in any of the climate change theories and propaganda. I do not support solar power. I believe that climate change is the biggest fraud perpetrated on the American people. Mt St Helena erupted in 1980. The PCBs and pollution from that eruption caused more pollution than the entire industrial revolution during the years from 1890 to 1980. Only the Lord controls the climate.

I don't believe in shutting down Sherco coal operated plants.

- Sherco's production capacity is 2450 megawatts of power
 - the power produced is clean
 - what is going to replace the affordable, reliable power that Sherco produces?
 - there will be a domino affect of jobs across Sherco, Burlington Northern & all fossil fuel mines

I was employed at Sherco for 37+ years hauling coal. The plant has provided clean energy to millions of people for many years at an affordable rate. Right now if you were to view the transmission lines behind Sherco, you will see a lot of lines and equipment. When you look at solar fields you see one small line going to a high line pole. What is going to replace the production that Sherco provides?

I have concerns about the impacts to the environment and the natural beauty of the farmland and the land surrounding the Mississippi River.

- current environment is rural agricultural
- rural agricultural areas are declining in Minnesota and generally across the United States
- there will be degradation to wildlife and natural habitats - birds, butterflies, bees, will be impacted. Bland turtles are an endangered species - what will be the impacts? When solar farms harm or remove species within a habitat, that also impacts the valuable ecosystem services they provide to that habitat. The habitats become less livable for plants and wildlife that have adapted to specific conditions.
- I have concerns about the overall appearance and the land values to those still living in the area. Who wants to look at solar panels?
- what's going to happen to these panels at the end of life of the materials?
What will be the environmental impacts of disposal?

The only agricultural farmers in Clear Lake Township that are in favor of these solar fields are those that stand to benefit from the contracts to rent their fields. Two members of the township board have high acreage farms that will be leased out for solar panels. I believe that is a conflict of interest.

I appreciate you hearing my concerns and look forward to hearing your responses.

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