

Position “UNFAVORABLE” to HB1036 / SB0931

OPPOSTION to: Proposed 22 Acre Solar Farm on Pfeffers Road - Kingsville, MD 21087

Hello Legislative Team; Delegates Kathy Szeliga & Ryan Nawrocki, Senator J.B. Jennings

I am sending an urgent plea for help from the concerned neighbors on Pfeffers Road in Kingsville, MD 21087 (Baltimore County - 7th district, Julie & John Young)

I specifically included Delegates Terri Hill, Sheila Ruth & Jen Terrasa as they are sponsoring House Bill - "MD HB878 - Dep't of Environment - **Protection of Vernal Pools**". Delegate Terri Hill also sponsored a similar bill in 2024 - HB729 that did not make it past the 1st Reading Stage.

We are battling a proposed 15-Acre Solar Farm that is to be built right up against our homes here on the west side of Pfeffers Road. One neighbor's home (Doug and Kalinda Hooper) will be surrounded on 3 sides by this proposed solar facility, with the fourth side fronted by an already existing solar farm across our narrow road in front of their house. The already existing large solar farm on the east side of Pfeffers Road was built about 8 years ago on a cleared, agricultural land tract - you can see this existing Solar Array between Raphel and Bradshaw Roads from I-95. We have also learned that they will be expanding this existing Solar Farm to double in size and take up the entire farm tract. Furthermore, there is already another solar farm slated to be built at the end of Dowell Lane, the street directly behind us, also on an already cleared, agricultural land tract.

This proposed solar array on Pfeffers Road will require the destruction of at least 15 acres of a 22 Acre plot of old-growth forested wetlands, complete with vernal pools & draining into a vibrant stream that directly feeds the Gunpowder River, only a couple miles away. It will completely box our neighborhood in by multiple solar farms in all directions. Why is this allowed to happen in such a beautiful, rural setting like Kingsville? I may understand placing Solar Farms on already cleared FARM land. But I can see no reason to clear and destroy 15 acres of old growth forest and wetlands to place one. Why do we have a **“greenspace”** initiative in the State if, on the backside, we are willing to destroy natural greenspace for these solar farms? Especially in a residential area where we pay very high property taxes?

This forested woodland is my favorite part of my home in Kingsville. I treasure all the woodland creatures, especially the frogs, toad, and salamander species that breed only in these vernal pools and wetlands in those woods every spring. The largest vernal pool is located next to me, between my and my neighbor's, Doug Hooper, homes and will be decimated as the design for the solar array goes directly over it. This large vernal pool, and other smaller vernal pools in the line of fire from this proposed solar array, literally teem with life and send up a chorus of sound every spring.

I cannot believe that Baltimore County will stand by and allow a neighborhood to be completely taken over by Solar Farms. We are hardworking, tax-paying people who deserve better than for our local Government to allow this to happen and completely disregard its citizens whose lives and homes will be severely and directly affected by these hulking solar farms. Pfeffers Road is very narrow, with one way in or out. To clear that 15 acres of forest will essentially require a logging operation, complete with massive excavators, large cutters, dump trucks, etc. How is our small, rural, residential road supposed to handle that type of disruption? We have families with small children that will be at risk from this industrial operation. Currently, the Kingsville Elementary school bus stop for the kids is at the intersection of Bradshaw Road, Dowell Lane and Pfeffers Road. This public-school bus stop is directly across from St. Stephen's Catholic Church and School, which

adds to the problematic traffic safety concerns for both the public and private school children at that intersection. This will be an extremely dangerous place for small, school-age children and motorists when huge, industrial scale excavating machines and trucks start to clear and destroy the forest and haul the trees away to make way for the solar farms proposed on both Pfeffers Road and Dowell Lane.

I am so sad that this is happening to myself and my neighbors' beautiful, forested neighborhood that backs up to Mt. Vista Park. Wouldn't it make more sense to erect this type of Solar Farm on the parking lot surrounding White Marsh Mall, similar to how CCBC Essex's campus has done? A large plot of pre-existing cleared land that would serve a double function as not only a solar farm, but would provide semi-covered parking for customers? **Or below the existing power lines that run beside Mt. Vista Park, directly behind our homes at the end of Dowell Lane? There would be no need to destroy forested wetlands, if these solar arrays were erected on property already designated and structured with BGE power line installations?** Either alternate location would be a win for Baltimore County and the homeowners on Pfeffers Road who are already over-burdened with these Solar Farms around us.

I understand that the owner of the property has rights to purposing his land. But where do his rights end, when his planned actions directly and negatively affect those neighbors bordering his land? The owner, Bob Persaud, does not live here and so he will not have to deal with any of the industrial logging disruption, construction havoc, or ugliness and destruction that the solar farm will cause. It appears that Persaud's motive for this solar farm is pure ROI for his purchase of this 22 acres that he could only build one house upon, if that, due to the clay base that fails to perk for septic. He intends to pursue the solar farm, regardless of the harm to the community or the forest wildlife fauna. How is this even remotely fair to all of us on Pfeffers Road who live here and oppose this? **Why is it ok to allow us to be surrounded on all sides by these solar farms? It is the duty of our elected officials in the State and Federal legislature to stand up for us on issues like this, and not to simply bow down to the greed motives of one man and BGE.**

It is not fair to try to solve Maryland's energy crisis on the backs of the residents of Pfeffers Road! The plan needs to fairly distribute these Solar Farm projects across the entire district, not cluster them all within one neighborhood. Baltimore County and Maryland also need to tread cautiously to preserve the existing forests we have within our suburbs and not destroy the vernal pools that the amphibian creatures need for survival. Are we willing to accept the possibility that future generations of children will have to travel to remote areas of Maryland or to another state entirely to hear the croak of a frog or to catch a toad or salamander? Extirpation, or local extinction, of these species is a real possibility if we continue to ruthlessly destroy critical habitat.

We have already reached out to our Baltimore County Councilman, David Marks, about this. He is helping us navigate this crisis. But we need our Maryland State representatives to get behind us too! **We need you to support, advocate and show up for us - the people you represent - to block this solar farm plan by voting against HB1036 and SB0931!**

Julie & John Young
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Yellow outline - Proposed Solar Array Design

Red outline with a "X" - already existing Solar Farm across the Pfeffers Raod on agricutural tact - can see from I-95 - slated to double in size

Red outline with a "?" - already approved Solar Farm on Dowell Lane - which is directly behind Pfeffers Road

Purple outline - our neighbor's house on Pfeffer's Road that will be completely surrounded by Solar Arrays if this is approved.

Blue outline - existing BGE "Iron Maiden" Power Lines that run directly behind Pfeffers Road - this may be a future location of Solar Array Farm

Pink outline - my house - Julie Young - 11024 Pfeffers Road, Kingsville, MD 21087: Solar Farm to the left & diectly across the road from us.