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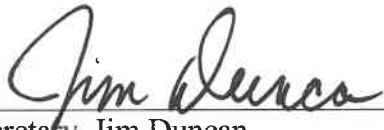
RECOMMENDATION OF THE
URBAN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
OF LEXINGTON AND FAYETTE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

IN RE: PLN-ZOTA-24-00003: REGULATION OF SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS – a text amendment to create a new article in the Zoning Ordinance to facilitate the siting, development, construction, installation, and decommissioning of solar energy systems.

Having considered the above matter on **September 26, 2024**, at a Public Hearing, and having voted **6-0** that this Recommendation be submitted to the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council, the Urban County Planning Commission does hereby recommend **APPROVAL OF THE STAFF ALTERNATIVE TEXT** of this matter for the following reasons:

1. The proposed language will allow for increased utilization of solar energy systems within urban contexts, contributing to the community's efforts to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 (Theme E, Goal #1.c).
2. The decision on how to address ground mounted solar energy systems in our rural areas should be based on a larger, more robust process, with opportunities for stakeholder and community conversations that seek consensus (Theme E, Goal #2.a).

ATTEST: This 11th day of October, 2024.



Secretary, Jim Duncan

LARRY FORESTER
CHAIR

At the Public Hearing before the Urban County Planning Commission, this petitioner was represented by **Darby Turner, applicant's attorney.**

OBJECTORS

- Brittany Rothemeier, Executive Director of Fayette Alliance.
- Chad Walker, 5167 Briar Hill Road.
- Hil Boone, 1451 Walnut Hill Road.
- Lee Hall, 251 West Loudon Ave.

OBJECTIONS

- Gave a presentation that stated that industrial-scale solar facilities were in direct opposition of the Comprehensive Plan and that Fayette County should focus on offsetting carbon emissions by prioritizing innovative solar solutions on already-built environments.
- Stated his opposition due to the large scale impact large solar farms would have on the community and the need to preserve farmland.
- Stated his opposition in order to preserve the local farmland.
- Stated the community needs to balance the rural and urban needs. He provided information about Hallway Feeds solar

installation on Loudon Avenue.

- Yvette Heard, 311 Irvine Road.
- Lydia Lorenz, 198 Austerlitz Road
- Richard Levine, professor emeritus at the University of Kentucky.
- Stated she was against this application and wanted to protect local farmland.
- Stated she had grave concerns about the unknown consequences of large scale industrial farms, and encouraged the Planning Commission to vote no.
- Stated he had issues about the sustainability of these solar farms was against the text amendment.

VOTES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: (6) Barksdale, Z. Davis, Michler, Owens, Wilson, and Worth
NAYS: (0)
ABSENT: (5) J. Davis, Forester, Nicol, Penn, & Pohl
ABSTAINED: (0)
DISQUALIFIED: (0)

Motion for **APPROVAL** of **PLN-ZOTA-24-0003** carried.

Enclosures: Application
Proposed Language
Staff Reports
Applicable excerpts of minutes of above meeting