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Pilon, Janet

Subject: FW: Mountsberg Solar Project: The Demise of the Family Farm

From: Ben Pasuta

Sent: July-09-15 9:33 PM

Subject: Mountsberg Solar Project: The Demise of the Family Farm

Dear Members of Council,

North of Carlisle lies part of Flamborough's Piece of Heaven; hundreds of acres of agricultural real estate. Beautiful rolling hills, century old homes, and fields as far as the eye can see. It is the home of small Family Farms, and individuals who love the rural way of life.

I urge Council to produce no letter of support for the Mountsberg Solar Farm Project.

Family farms honour the legacy of generations before us. The thought of installing Solar Panels on farmland that has been in production for centuries and continues to produce a livelihood, is saddening. The land will be degraded, and is unlikely to be returned to its original state. They are proposing to build berms to hide the blight on our landscape. Would you like to look out your kitchen window to see a wall of dirt, rather than the once rolling hills?

Distinctions between prime agricultural land and rural land should not be determined based on arbitrary mapping systems; this "rural land", that is considered of lesser quality, has been farmed for centuries. No destruction of rural land, or prime agricultural land, should be tolerated unless the acreage is deemed unusable by agricultural experts. Should we allow the maiming of our land, based off a line on a map?

The amount of compensation for acreage for this Solar Farm project is enticing; above the going rate for land rental. Is devaluing million dollar properties to a fraction of the cost, to power 5000 homes worth it?

The City of Hamilton is known for its promotion of "Eat Local", and support of the Family Farm. Supporting Solar Farming that destroys the integrity of our Farmland is contradictory to this cause.

With the average age of a Farmer being over the age of 50, we should be doing all we can to encourage young farmers. Small farmers rely on having rental acreage available that surrounds the home base. Not many can afford to own this acreage.

If this solar project snowballs, it will be the demise of the Family Farm.

Respectfully,

Ben Pasuta

Aspiring Young Mountsberg Farmer