

October 7, 2019

**VIA EMAIL AND USPS**

Chairman Greg Edds  
Rowan County Board of Commissioners  
130 W Innes Street  
Salisbury, North Carolina 28144

Director Edward Muire  
Rowan County Planning and Development Department  
402 N Main Street, Room 204  
Salisbury, North Carolina 28144

Assistant Director Shane Stewart  
Rowan County Planning and Development Department  
402 N Main Street, Room 204  
Salisbury, North Carolina 28144

Mr. Jay Dees  
Rowan County Attorney  
130 W Innes Street  
Salisbury, North Carolina 28144

**RE: China Grove Solar Conditional Use Permit Application for 65 MW Solar Farm**

Dear Chairman Edds:

Cooperative Solar LLC and our partners have been working diligently to develop China Grove Solar, a 65 MW solar farm in Rowan County on property owned by Big Harry, LLC and Mia and Bryan Holshouser. Recognizing this project has a large footprint, we have communicated with the community proactively, even though we know from experience that solar farms are one of the lease intensive uses in rural areas and the proposed vegetative buffers would have shielded this project completely from sight.

In June 2019, our community coordination and outreach began in earnest when our representatives met with the Planning and Development Department to share details about the project, learn more about your Zoning Ordinance, and better understand the process to obtain all approvals required by the County. Because the Rowan County Zoning Ordinance allows a solar farm on this property with a Conditional Use Permit ("CUP") from the Board of Commissioners, we filed our initial CUP application on July 15, 2019.

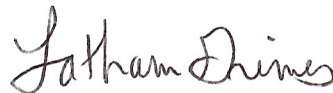
After this initial submission, we continued to communicate with Planning Department staff to refine our site plan and supplement our application with additional information. On August 1, 2019, we held a community meeting to obtain feedback from adjoining landowners and neighbors who would live near this project. After further site plan revisions, we appeared before the Board on September 16, 2019, and received additional feedback. That feedback was clear: Board members, through their questions, demonstrated they were not ready to issue the CUP for this project. Although our experience with solar facilities has caused us to conclude that

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China Grove Solar would be an asset to the community and not burden neighbors, we hereby request to withdraw the CUP application for the 65 MW solar farm submitted by China Grove Solar.

As the Board considers potential new rules for large solar farms in Rowan County, Cooperative Solar would appreciate the opportunity to provide input on behalf of the industry. We stand ready to help if our insights or expertise regarding solar development in North Carolina would be of service. We look forward to investing in Rowan County in the future.

Sincerely,



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