



Petition statement to be delivered to Town of Tiverton Planning Board:

Oppose Industrial-Scale Solar Facility on Historic Wingover Farm

The INDUSTRIAL-SCALE SOLAR FACILITY proposed for Wingover Farm on Crandall Rd by developer, Douglas Desimone, does not belong on this historic property and will have negative and lasting impacts on the environment, safety, the economy, property values and our community's rural character.

The facility proposes to manufacture electricity using ### solar arrays, access roads, up to ### or more concrete pads for ### high multiple Inverter Power Stations, surrounding a ### acre area with a seven foot high chain link fence topped with ### feet of barbed wire.

The developer's plans show the vast ### acre solar factory beginning on the wetlands in front of 18th Century Ruben Hart Farmhouse, extending over the farmhouse and barn yard, heading west over existing fields, over woodlands towards the back of the property, ending with a ### foot buffer around a large pond. The buffer on the northern, Able Hart, neighborhood and the Taber farm is 120 feet.

This plan will decimate the forested area, destroying wildlife habitat. The well established ecosystem within the areas of woodland, shrubland and wetland supports many types of wildlife including butterflies, bats, fox, dragonflies, deer, birds, including wild turkeys, quail, ducks, egrets,

heron, killdeer, otters and owls that will be affected when a huge part of their habitat and their source of food is removed.

The variety of vegetation that will be clear-cut for the Solar Facility includes ferns, milkweed, wild grapes, princess pine, creeping myrtle and trees, including an old growth beech tree and grove, pine, sycamore maple, oaks, mountain laurel, apple, cherry, spruce and American holly.

The farm has a rich history and has been called home by both Revolutionary War soldiers and rum runners alike. The farmhouse and cemetery on the property were both established in the 18th century and is on the historic register. Unearthed arrowheads show the Wampanoag Indians once occupied the property.

Safety is a concern. The proposed property has wetlands that drain from the back of the property to a creek headed towards Adamsville. Solar arrays contain cadmium and lead. We are concerned as to how we would be protected if the waterways became contaminated if solar equipment were to fail.

Studies show that industrial-scale solar facilities are harmful to wildlife. The glare from reflective glass of the solar arrays confuses birds and they crash into them. Animals lose their habitat and move to other areas where they are less safe, that may or may not provide the right ecosystem for them to feed, nest and survive.

This is a rape of the land and nature, and this plan disregards the sensitive and historic nature of this property. For all the reasons listed, we strongly and vigorously oppose the construction of an industrial-scale solar power plant at this location as it takes away precious agricultural land and changes the rural character of Tiverton, RI.