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EFSEV
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

RE: Industrial Solar Panels in Douglas County

To Whom It May Concern:

We have just learned of a proposed industrial solar development on over 2,200 acres on Badger Mountain. This development would impact land that is used by the sage grouse for breeding and nesting. Douglas County is the only viable population of sage grouse in the state. Badger Mountain is key to their survival. Any further loss of their dwindling habitat could be fatal to their survival.

The Badger Mountain area is far from being a remote wasteland. On the contrary, it is a viable and highly productive farming and recreational area that includes lands critical for shrub-steppe wildlife, plants and birds. We are already struggling to save and maintain enough quality shrub-steppe habitat to not only protect wildlife, plants and birds, but also protect watersheds and slopes from landslide and erosion. Fires in the past few years have impacted thousands of acres from NCW shrub-steppe. This project would make another 2,200 + acres into a veritable wasteland very close to populated areas in the Chelan/Douglas Counties.

And all this is for what purpose? Yes, we are all in favor of clean and environmentally friendly sources of power. Our area is known for our dams and renewable energy sources. We would like to know who the power generated by this proposed solar development is to be sold to? Why was our area selected for this project? We value the beauty of our local topography and want to keep this area beautiful. I have participated in Our Valley Our Future on the sustainability committee. The people in the Chelan/Douglas area are very concerned about growth and keeping our area beautiful for our families and for future generations. This solar farm would do nothing to further those goals. We do not want NCW degraded to provide power for large urban areas. It is just not necessary. There are other areas and other forms of power sources that would be much better suited to this purpose.

Please do not proceed any further with this proposal! We do not want to see these lands turn into massive solar farms at the expense of our local recreational resources, essential natural resources, wildlife, traditional indigenous cultural values, watersheds, valuable farmlands, etc.

Thank you for listening.

Respectfully,

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