

Camacho, Aida (BPU)

From: Joel McGreen <joelmcgreen@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 1:02 PM
To: Secretary, BPUBoard (BPU)
Cc: Kristin Shipps
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Solar Successor Program Comments

The following are comments to The State of New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Solar Successor Program from the Blirstown Township Open Space Committee and Agriculture Advisory Committee.

1. We are concerned that the proposal would hinder the Farmland preservation program in Blirstown by offering more incentive to lease farmland for solar panels than to retain it for farming.
2. Blirstown is still an active farming community even though it does not have an overabundance of prime soils. This initiative would reduce the farming acreage in our area and have indirect impact on Ag related businesses and activities.
3. Taking acreage out of farming for solar power generation seems short sided. A more sensible approach might be to utilize mall parking areas that no longer are viable. In addition, there are numerous old factories and roof tops that might be viable candidates. Another approach would be to place panels in parking lots that would utilize currently impermeable areas.
4. Blirstown has approximately 2,000 acres of preserved farms and about 1,500 acres of non-preserved farms. The Township wants to remain primarily rural and this initiative does not help retain that goal.

Joel McGreen
Blirstown Ag Advisory Committee and Open Space Committee