PO Box 31 Roslyn, WA 98941 August 10, 2010

Board of Adjustment Kittitas County 205 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re: Conditional Use Permit for Teanaway Solar Reserve

AUG 1 1 2010

KITTITAS COUNTY

CDS

#### Dear Board Members:

I urge you to deny a Conditional Use Permit to the Teanaway Solar Reserve, LLC based on criteria outlined in sections 17.60A.010 Review Criteria and 17.60A.020 Conditions of the Kittitas County Code. Testimony from County landowners, community leaders, and expert consultants has indicated that the proposed complex would be detrimental to the character of the surrounding neighborhood. A two-mile wide swath of solar panels with 10-acre substation connected to 150-foot high power lines will destroy the peace and rural character of this section of the Teanaway Valley, one of the most scenic rural valleys in Washington. Additionally the reflective nature of the solar panels presents a major safety hazard for drivers on SR970, a highway already plagued with a high accident rate.

Furthermore the economic benefits touted by TSR are deceptive, with installation workers brought in from outside the county, and only 2 – 4 technicians needed to run the completed installation. The promised solar panel manufacturing facility is unlikely to materialize since a manufacturer exists in Moses Lake. Experts have proven that generating solar energy in the Teanaway is problematic due to latitude and weather; TSR's promises of "green" benefits of solar generation are green washing to promote a misleading perception that TSR is environmentally friendly. The only people who would reap economic benefits from this project are TSR principals cashing in on state renewable energy incentives and federal tax benefits; those out of state individuals are not going to pump their money back into the local economy.

Zoned Forest and Range 20, a zone in which natural resource management is of the highest priority, the proposed TSR site should be protected as rural without question. TSR's promises of local economic benefit made even more suspect by their exploitation of alternative energy to green wash this project do not justify irreparably destroying our County's forest lands. We are not the gullible country bumpkins that their application implies we are. We do not believe their promises and do not want Teanaway Solar Reserve in the Teanaway. I urge the Board of Adjustment to not be bamboozled by their promises, and to deny TSR's application for a Conditional Use Permit.

Sincerely,

Lea Beardsley

Lu Beardsley



1001 East First Street

Cle Elum, WA 98922

August 11,2010

County Commissioners and Board of Adjustment

**Kittitas County** 

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am a small business operator in Cle Elum. I am writing to express my support for the Teanaway Solar Reserve Project. This will be not only a source of safe renewable energy, but also will create jobs and improve the economy of the County. I sincerely hope that the promoters of the project will get the necessary permits to go ahead with the project.

Thanks

Sincerely,

Rahim A. Rahimon

Rilbankali

From: Craig Crooper [clcooper4@comcast.net]
Sent: Craig Crooper [clcooper4@comcast.net]

To: CDS User

**Subject:** My response to the proposed TSR development

Attachments: Teanaway Solor Reserve, my letter against it 8-10-10.docx



August 10, 2010

Dear Kittitas County Community Development Services;

I am strongly against the proposed Teanaway Solar Reserve development.

It is a particularly lousy place for a solar farm. It gets far less sun than numerous other areas, such as the vast open sun-drenched spaces that cover much of Eastern Washington. Even the lower Kittitas area has markedly better sites.

The Cle Elum Ridge is a lousy place for a solar farm, but a wonderful and heavily-used animal corridor. The joke of environmental studies conducted for TSR was far too short and poorly conducted as it did not cover diurnal or annual seasonal effects for wildlife. Therefore TSR's studies were inadequate to the point of negligence because TSR's development's impact could be markedly detrimental.

TSR will only hire 225 temporary workers, and half of those will be from Western Washington. And the number of permanent workers? Only 2 to 4! Why risk a great future with tourism for that?

Dealing with TSR, with its overt misinformation campaign, with its attempts to keep its association with the American Forest and Land Company away from public scrutiny, and with it having no interest in the well-being of the people or land in the area...would likely result in many very frustrated local residents.

These developers can risk failure, as they would be using land that is basically free for them, and they are getting all sorts of tax incentives to do this development. If it does fail, say after 5-10 years, who will pay to clean the area up? The tax and rate payers = us!

TSR is trying to tiptoe around the obvious need for any development this large: <u>a FULL Environmental Impact Statement.</u>

Not knowing the effects on wildlife, water aquifers, and tourism in the area is courting disaster.

Tourism will create far more markets for Cle Elum residents than the solar farm, and tourism will only increase... IF Cle Elum makes it an attractive destination site. A solar panel farm, with 400,000 solar panels glaring out from the Cle Elum ridge is NOT attractive to tourists!

Our family goes to Cle Elum because of the beauty of the area. A solar farm would cause us to consider other destinations more often. When we are in the Cle Elum area, we use the gas stations, grocery stores, some of the restaurants, etc. I think there are many people like us who help support local residents by using their stores and restaurants, and such use by tourists will only grow...unless Cle Elum starts down the destructive pathway of trashing their true natural assets for a development that will only deter tourism.

Keeping the Cle Elum area beautiful, with abundant scenic open spaces for walking and hiking trails, with clear streams, and abundant wildlife – this is what will attract tourists, fisherman, and hunters.

<u>A FULL Environmental Impact Study is critical</u> because a development as disruptive and ugly as the proposed TSR one will potentially have serious deleterious effects on the local economy and wildlife. Both these issues require a thorough and well-conducted EIS. That includes wildlife and recreational uses over all seasons of the year.

- 1. Such a massive development could seriously jeopardize the very important Cle Elum Ridge wildlife corridor.
- 2. Such a massive and ugly/glaring development would be a deterrent to tourism in the area, and thereby the local economy could be seriously affected.

Tourism is the best way to vitalize the local economy, and tourism encourages the kinds of development that make the area more pleasant for local residents as well.

The TSR development would do markedly more damage to the Cle Elum area than good, especially over the long term.

Sincerely,

Lydia B. Cooper (Washington resident and active voter)

Dear Kittitas County Community Development Services:

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From: Craig Crooper [clcooper4@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2010 12:56 PM

To: CDS User

Subject: CORRECTIONS TO EARLIER EMAIL REGARDING THE POTENTIAL TSR DEVELOPMENT

Attachments: Teanaway Solor Reserve, my letter against it 8-10-10.docx

Dear Board of Adjustment, care of Kittitas County Co9mmunity Development Services;

An email I sent to you at 11:36 am today, August 11<sup>th</sup>, had errors in it. Looking it over I have made the edits I feel were needed, and am sending a final statement regarding my views about the proposed TSR development.

*** Please DISREGARD THE EARLIER (11:36 am) EMAIL, and RECORD THIS EMAIL INSTEAD. ***	RECEIVED
Thank you, and full apologies for the inconvenience,	AUG 1 1 2010
Lydia B. Cooper	KITTITAS COUNTY
	015

August 10, 2010

Dear Board of Adjustment, Kittitas County Community Development Services;

I am strongly against the proposed Teanaway Solar Reserve development.

It is a particularly lousy place for a solar farm. It gets far less sun, has far more snow and fog than numerous other areas, and is in a sensitive wildlife corridor. The vast open sun-drenched spaces that cover much of Eastern Washington, and even the lower Kittitas area have markedly better sites.

The Cle Elum Ridge is a lousy place for a solar farm, but a wonderful and heavily-used animal corridor. The joke-of-an-environmental-study conducted for TSR was far too short and poorly conducted. It did not even cover full day cycles (dawn, morning, noon, evening, & various times during the night) or annual seasonal effects for wildlife; and the time-frame for observing the wildlife was far too short. Given the significance that such a massive and potentially detrimental impact as TSR's could have; TSR's environmental studies were inadequate to the point of negligence.

TSR will only hire 225 temporary workers, and half of those will be from Western Washington. And the number of permanent workers? Only 2 to 4! Why risk a great future with tourism for that?

Dealing with TSR; with its misinformation campaign, with its attempts to keep its association with the American Forest and Land Company away from public scrutiny, and with it having no interest in the well-being of the people or land in the area...would likely result in many very frustrated local residents and tourists.

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the Teanaway Solar Reserve. Rarely do opportunities come along that are mutually beneficial to local citizens, our County, our State, and our Country. I have followed the process, attended meetings, and reviewed the changes since it was announced. TSR has done a very good job of communicating and making changes based on local input. How fortunate we are that we have a business that wants to locate in our community, that provides clean, quiet, odor free renewable energy. The creation of local jobs could not come at a more critical time for our community. This economic down turn has left many families in our community unemployed or with minimal work. These are the exact type of jobs that the economic development studies have shown that we need in our community. The short and long term job opportunities are just some of the local benefits. Our children will benefit the most as America starts becoming energy independent. I recommend that our county decision makers, the county board of adjustment, commissioners, and others make sure we embrace this opportunity.

Fric Terrill

Upper Kittitas County Resident

RECEIVED

AUG 1 1 2010

KITTITAS COUNTY
CDS

Meagan Walker [meaganw@strategies360.com] Wednesday, August 11, 2010 1:04 PM From:

Sent:

CDS User To:

Letter in support of TSR from Terrill terrill letter.jpg Subject:

Attachments:

Jpg attached

RECEIVE AUG 1 1 2010 KITTITAS COUNTY CDS

From: Sent: Kayla Cooper [cooperkc@whitman.edu] Wednesday, August 11, 2010 1:00 PM

To:

CDS User

Subject:

Teanaway Solar Reserve

Dear Board of Adjustment,



Please know that I strongly oppose the Teanaway Solar Reserve project.

Teanaway Solar Reserve (TSR) must require a complete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). There is a reason that an EIS is required of developments that have even slight potentials to cause harm to the environment and or change the "character" of the area. As boasted by TSR, this project will be one of the largest in the world. Of all the times to insist on a complete EIS, this is it! It is simply irresponsible and disingenuous, at best, not to require TSR to submit a full EIS.

Please protect property owners! If the Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions, among other things, are ignored and allowed to be trumped by the TSR development, you are essentially saying that the rights of property owners do not exist. The proposed "transmission corridor" would have large lines that would cross private land. This private land that has been chosen by TSR as an access corridor is subject to Protective Covenants which limit the lands use to "residential uses only." They bar the land from being used for any kind of commercial purpose, and the TSR project *is* a commercial industrial project. Allowing TSR to begin construction and become operational would be to ignore the protections that private property owners have enjoyed and depended on for years. Do not allow this to happen. The devastation that will happen to the area if this project is approved would be almost irreversible; but the unique environment will benefit residents for years to come if you choose to protect the rights of property owners and preserve the environment.

Residents in Kittitas County are good, hardworking people that deserve the opportunity to provide for themselves and their families. I understand how the hundreds of temporary jobs and the few permanent jobs advertised by TSR are attractive to many residents in Cle Elum and greater Kittitas County. However, you must consider the long term health of this county. After the temporary jobs expire, then what? What if something "goes wrong" with the project, and it is not finished? Is there *any* written guarantee from TSR that they will bear the entire burden of correcting for any damages? Not to sound cliché, but short term gain is [often] long term pain. Residents would be able to look forward to a far more economically stable and dynamic community if efforts were directed towards developing and expanding environmentally friendly jobs and opportunities. Game reserves, hiking, paragliding companies, various horse-packing trips, fishing, photography, etc. could become an integral part of Kittitas County. But that will not happen if TSR is allowed to begin construction. Tourism is a growing part of Kittitas County's economic health, but without a complete EIS, it is impossible to know about the impacts that TSR could have on this growing economic sector.

Please know that the Teanaway is an awful location for a solar farm. I do not see how having solar panels that are able to absorb some of the rays in the winter changes the fact that the Teanaway has some of the lowest

solar electricity production in the U.S. Why is the future of Cle Elum being gambled when there are far more suitable sites to consider, for example, the plateaus in Lower Kittitas County?

It saddens me to think that the reason TSR has chosen the Teanaway is because of a cheap land lease between sister companies. Please, prove that you are working to protect all the people, and that your dedication to serving the public good does not waver when enticing short term gains are presented to you. If you approve the TSR project, The American Forest Land Company (AFLC) will have a very good shot at developing 40,000+ acres. Do not damn Kittitas County and this beautiful area by setting a precedent that tells developers that their wishes are more important the rights of private property owners.

It is despicable that a full environmental impact statement has not been required. It is despicable that Howard Trott, TSR's director, has been untruthful in saying that there is no relationship between TSR and AFLC. Trott is one of several players that are seeking profits at the expense of Washington State tax payers and Kittitas County residents. Again, I am extremely against the Teanaway Solar Reserve project. Please prove that you are looking out and willing to work for the best interest of Washington State and Kittitas County residents by opposing the Teanaway Solar Reserve project.

Sincerely,

Kayla Cordelia Cooper

Kayla C. Cooper

2141 Dellesta Dr.

Bellingham, WA 98226

360-393-7320

(I am a registered voter in WA)

# The Cottage Cafe Fireside Lounge

911 East First Street Cle Elum, WA 98922

August 10, 2010

Board of Adjustment Community Development Services 411 N. Ruby St Ellensburg, WA 98926

To County Decision Makers:

I am writing to encourage you to approve permits for Teanaway Solar Reserve.

As a Cle Elum business owner, I have experienced firsthand the benefits of having a major construction project sited nearby. I witnessed a significant increase in revenues at the Cottage Cafe during the time period when steelworkers were working on the wind farm.

I fully anticipate that the Teanaway Solar Reserve will have an even greater impact on local businesses due to the proximity of its location to the Cle Elum town center. An industry of this size and caliber will be a tremendous asset to every single retail and service business in the area, both during this time of economic downturn and in the years to follow.

Sincerely,

Ben Goldie

The Cottage Café & Fireside Lounge

RECEIVE AUG 1 1 2010
KITTITAS COUNTY
CDS

Ph: (509) 674-2922 Fx: (509) 674-5635

From: Sent:

Meagan Walker [meaganw@strategies360.com] Wednesday, August 11, 2010 1:06 PM

To:

CDS User

Subject:

Letter in support of TSR from Goldie

Attachments:

goldie letter.jpg

Jpeg attached

AUG 1 1 2010
KITTITAS COUNTY