

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.

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: a FULL Environmental Impact Statement. **Not knowing the effects on wildlife, water aquifers, and tourism in the area is courting disaster.**

Tourism will create far more economic 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.

A FULL Environmental Impact Study is critical 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)