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From: **Dana McCoskey** <dana.mccoskey@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Jan 6, 2019 at 8:21 PM

Subject: MD Solar 1 LLC, Shugart Valley, Charles County - AI number 162822, permit tracking number is 201861760

To: <ben.grumbles@maryland.gov>

Cc: <jeffrey.thompson@maryland.gov>, <denise.keehner@maryland.gov>, <bonniebick@gmail.com>

Dear Secretary Grumbles,

I am writing to request that the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) provide an opportunity for public participation in the form of a public hearing before making any decisions for Maryland Solar 1 LLC solar power project application at Shugart Valley in Charles County.

I was recently informed by the Chapman Forest Foundation, that there is a Power Purchase Agreement with Georgetown University and MD Solar 1 LLC in relation to this proposed project. There are numerous environmental concerns associated with this proposal including impacts streams, trees, wildlife, and other natural resources and from what I have seen of the proposal it does not seem wise. An MDE public hearing process gives an opportunity for residents and others effected to express their concerns. There are numerous alternative places on low value lands to site solar installations in Maryland and these alternatives should be considered.

This proposal would increase the fragmentation of valuable forested habitats, impacting declining migratory bird species and other wildlife. This forested site has many Department of Natural Resources designations and has been identified as the high value habitat. It is also designated as a Targeted Ecological Area of high ecological value related to conservation priorities for natural resources protection. Further, the National Audubon Society has identified this parcel as an Important Bird Area.

Solar power is best sited on low value lands or areas that do not impact the natural resources that protect our air and water, or provide critical wildlife habitat. Solar panels have the greatest benefits when placed on existing infrastructure and already impervious surfaces.

A hearing ensures that the public a voice is heard in planning and resource protection. I think this proposal's location presents a unnecessary controversy for

solar power and has been poorly evaluated. Another more suitable location, will yield the same amount of energy for Georgetown University, without the negative impacts and provide a truly sustainable solution for clean energy generation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration on this subject.

Sincerely,

Dana McCoskey

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