



Michigan Conservative Energy Forum

- Founded in 2013 - Conservative voice in energy policy
- Free markets, competition, innovation – All of the Above
- Main proponent of nuclear energy



Get Educated

- Pursue firsthand information – Go on tours!
- Talk with local leaders and residents in other communities



Recent Laws

- Payment in Lieu of Taxes
 - Optional – can still choose business PPT
 - \$7,000/MW per year for 20 or more years
 - Real estate (land value) tax still applies
- Renewable Ready Communities Grant
 - Minimum \$5,000/MW one-time grant for 20+ MW



What about PA 116?

- Contract is “paused” during life of solar installation
- Land must be restored after project life – remediation
- Land value taxed per zoning & equipment per PPT or PILT



What should zoning look like?

- Be consistent & well reasoned. True health, safety & welfare
- Require performance standards – expect promises kept
- State zoning reform law is coming



How much land for solar?

- Approximately 9% of MI farmland is for FUEL production
- 725,000 to 750,000 acres of corn for Ethanol
- 133,000 acres of soybeans for biodiesel
- Consumers & DTE say 170,000 acres – I say 250,000 acres
- That's 2.5% of MI farmland



Common Statement/Fears

- Solar will permanently ruin farmland
- Solar panels leach chemicals, polluting the ground/water
- Wind turbines create loud, disturbing noise
- Wind & solar not cost competitive without tax subsidies
- Large birds/bats are killed; wildlife is disturbed



Common Statement/Fears

- Property (home) values are negatively affected
 - Berkley Study: Not applicable, no impact after ½ mile
 - CohnResnick: Lapeer solar farm – no impact
- We make power to send to other places
- Solar panels cause drainage problems from runoff
- Millions of solar panels will end up in landfills



Questions?

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