

YOUR VIEWS I

A warning to Buckingham and surrounding counties

To the Editor:
The "Friends of the Meherrin" came together to fight the original "Seven Bridges" solar industrial mega site which was five times the size of our existing and operating "Grasshopper" site here in Mecklenburg County and would have fronted the scenic Meherrin River for 19,000 ft. Our county officials have now roundly voted "Seven Bridges" down two times. They are wise to the hollow promises and outright lies of the solar developers after seeing the poor performance of the 500 acre "Grasshopper" site which was fairly level cow pasture and is now owned by Dominion Energy. With their bottomless checkbook, they have been unable to stop the thousands of tons of silt from destroying Butcher's Creek and sending a plume of mud into the Kerr Lake ten miles away every time it rains. If Dominion Energy cannot correct this issue here, we doubt there will be better results from a larger more steeply graded area such as the almost 2,000 acre

Apex Riverstone Solar facility being proposed only one half a mile from the scenic James River and threatening historic Payne's Pond as well as another historic pond. This site is totally inappropriate for utility scale solar and all its issues with erosion such as the Essex project's disastrous flooding of Muddy Gut Creek and the Louisa County complaints from farmers flooded fields due erosion as well. Please take heed to what is happening around our state and check out the website www.citizenresponsiblesolar.org to learn more about utility scale solar here in Virginia. Above all, please attend or comment on the Buckingham Project by email at publiccomments@buckinghamcounty.virginia.gov or call the board for a three minute voicemail at (434) 969-5039 before the Feb. 28, meeting and voice your opinion on this matter.

**Judy Brothers
Friends of the Meherrin River
Chase City**

Believe in responsible solar

To the Editor:
I believe in responsible solar energy that does not encroach on our waterways and animal habitats. Solar facilities should be built on commercial or residential rooftops, along highways, overtop of parking lots and on already contaminated land (brown fields). I do not believe that large scale solar utility plants, which will mainly benefit urban communities and big tech companies, should change our rural landscape and be detrimental to the environment.
Currently there is a proposed project involving several thousand wooded acres in Buckingham County just one-half mile from the James River. To build this facility, the majority of the trees and their root structures will have to be removed which will result in tremendous soil erosion into the creeks which run through the

property. This erosion will affect the quality of the water and endanger aquatic life and these waterways run through adjacent property owners' land and then into the picturesque Seven Island section of the James River.
Building this Solar Plant will also destroy the habitat of already diminishing populations of songbirds and kill or in the very least displace many other woodland animals. Also of concern is the "lake effect" of thousands of solar panels. Waterfowl will attempt to land and are either killed on impact or die because they are unable to take flight without water. Buckingham County needs to reconsider the use of this land for an industrial power plant. This is not responsible solar.

**Ashley Cooper
Farmville**

Wilkins named Big South Player of the Week

Isaiah Wilkins got going and never slowed down last week for Longwood men's basketball, and the Big South announced the senior as the Big South Player of the Week on Monday afternoon.
Wilkins was nigh unstoppable, shooting .606 (20-33) from the floor while helping lead the Lancers to three wins in five days. He drained nine three's, hit all five free throws and averaged 18.0 points per game.
Saturday night's virtuoso performance against Hampton capped the week, as Wilkins reeled off 25 points to set a new career high. That came on the heels of a 17-point show at High



**Isaiah Wilkins
LONGWOOD**

Point on Thursday. In that contest he hit the game icing three from the top of the key with less than a minute to play, and he drained a pair of free throws to ice the game against Hampton.
In addition, Wilkins averaged 6.3 rebounds

per game while also totaling five assists and eight steals.
On the season, Wilkins averages 12.8 points per game and is Longwood's leading rebounder. He is also third on the team with 55 assists and leads the team with 45 steals.
This is the second time Wilkins was named the Big South Player of the Week after also earning the nod on Jan. 17. He is one of three Lancers to earn the weekly honors this season, with Justin Hill being named the Co-Player of the Week on Jan. 31, and Leslie Nkeru-ewem being named the player of the week on Nov. 22.

10 Reasons Industrial-Scale Solar Isn't Right For Agricultural-Rural Areas

- PAID ADVERTISEMENT
- Industrial-scale solar power plants should not be placed on land already zoned for A-1 (agricultural) and RA (rural area) use.**
The local planning commission and boards of supervisors should vote to reject industrial-scale solar power plants based on this reason alone.
 - The land (forest, farmland, vegetation, soil) is forever destroyed.**
Despite current discussions regarding decommissioning, the reality is that this rural land will be lost forever. Industrial-scale solar projects are typically for 30-40 years.
Construction of an industrial-scale solar power plant requires removal of trees, brush and root balls prior to installation of the arrays, creating an ecological wasteland. Grading, pile driving, blasting, electric cable trenching and road construction will compact the soil, likely delaying agricultural use for years after the project's end.
 - Solar projects should not be placed near wetlands, rivers, streams, tributaries to avoid immediate damage to water quality, and possible contamination-ecological disasters.**
Uncontrolled runoff of water and topsoil is a well-documented byproduct of industrial-scale solar site development. This massive increase in watershed sedimentation impacts all downstream rivers and estuaries. Water contamination doesn't stop with the end of construction. Removal of all trees and deep-rooted plants, along with inadequate storm water controls lead to long-term runoff and water contamination issues. Local municipalities usually do not have adequate resources to monitor construction and storm water violations and, even when properly monitored, site developers have no problem paying fines, and there is no effective check on environmental damage.
 - Solar power plants destroy wildlife habitat.**
Perimeter fencing, often 6-feet high and topped with barbed wire, will restrict movement of wildlife in the area. Removal of vegetation will impact bird population and other wildlife.
 - Solar power plants threaten preservation and should not destroy historic sites.**
Many rural areas are the last undeveloped sites that contain prehistoric and historic, archaeological deposits. Industrial development of these sites results in the irreversible loss of our history. In the Virginia Piedmont, this includes evidence of Native American settlements, early American settlement, Revolutionary and Civil War encampments and battlefields. Industrial development of these sites results in the irreversible loss of our history.
 - A decline in eco and historical tourism.**
Destruction of rural landscapes and areas of historic interest result in the decline in eco and historical-tourism (or may prevent the development of these industries), reducing the prosperity of the local community.
 - Solar power generation is very inefficient when looking at the amount of land "consumed."**
Solar power's inefficiency argues for proper siting on brownfields, industrial areas, and commercial and residential rooftops - not on open or forested, agricultural and rural land.
 - Undermining of local residents' property values.**
Based on recent studies, the expected reduction in property value ranged from 5-25% depending on proximity.
 - The bill for decommissioning projects will likely be passed on to taxpayers.**
Insufficient surety fund by the developer could result in county responsibility for decommissioning costs. Net Decommissioning costs can range from \$43.584/MW to \$101.915/MW. No plan and cost should ever be approved without a full understanding of the cost to return the land to its original condition, and the county should not be responsible for this cost.
 - When the local community has clearly expressed concern and opposition.**
Local planning commissions and boards of supervisors should vote to reject industrial-scale solar power plants when people in the community oppose it. With time, greater awareness of solar issues and accountability will take place.
- CONTACT YOUR BUCKINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR AND ASK THEM TO VOTE NO**
Call 434-969-5039, state your name and leave a voicemail telling them you do not want Apex Riverstone Solar.
(Make the call today or anytime before noon on Monday February 28th)

TRI-COUNTY FORD

1348 Four Locust Hwy. (434) 736-8444
Keyville, Virginia Toll Free 1-800-333-7456

 2018 Ford F-150 XL 17K Miles, Sync, Satellite Radio, Running Boards, West Chassis, Electric Brake Controller, Spray-In Bed Liner, Reverse Sensors, Tow Hitch, Local Trade! One Owner! #79337 \$39,995	 2014 Ford F-150 King Ranch 91K Miles, 8.0L V10 Turbocharging, Audio Controls on Steering Wheel, Bluetooth, Automatic Climate Control, Satellite Radio #21287 \$31,995	 2019 Ford Ranger Lariat 20K Miles, Heated Leather Seats, 8.0L EcoBoost, Satellite Radio, Navigation, Remote Start, Tonnau Cover, Bed Mat, Rear View Camera, Local Trade. #36641 \$35,995
 2017 Toyota Tundra SR5 57K Miles, TRD Package, Bluetooth, Navigation, Electric Brake Controller, Tow Pkg., Spray-In Bed Liner, Tonnau Cover, Running Boards. #77567 \$34,988	 2015 Ford Edge 89K Miles, Audio Controls on Steering Wheel, Bluetooth, Automatic Climate Control, Satellite Radio #49297 \$20,995	 2020 Ford Escape Titanium 14K Miles, Leather Seats, Navigation, Power Moon Roof & Lift Gate, Remote Start, Tow Package, Reverse Sensors, Local Trade! One Owner! #82807 \$34,995
 2017 Ford Escape SE 70K Miles, Heated Leather Seats, Sync, Satellite Radio, Information Center, Dual Temp Controls #39457 \$19,995	 2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo Leather Seats, Bluetooth, Radio, Navigation, Power Moon Roof, Remote Start, Tow Package, Reverse Sensors, Rear View Camera #3327 \$16,995	 2020 Ford EcoSport S 21K Miles, Rear View Camera, Local Trade! One Owner! #82837 \$22,995
 2018 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport 80K Miles, Audio Controls on Steering Wheel, Bluetooth, Good MPG, MP3, Keyless Entry #41067 \$19,995	 2012 Honda Accord Coupe EX-L Heated Leather Seats, Bluetooth, Information Center, Satellite Radio, Dual Temp Controls, Power Moon Roof, Local Trade! One Owner! #39447 \$17,995	 2012 Mazda2 Sport One Owner! Front Air Conditioning, Keyless Entry, One-Touch Windows, Single Disc Radio, Power Windows, Power Door Locks #25197 \$6,995

*Prices exclude tax, title, tag and \$199.00 processing fee. Sale Good thru 3/11/22
For More Inventory, Go To Tricountyfordonline.com

TRI-COUNTY

KEYVILLE, VA

Ask for Mark Harding, Wayne Seamster, Jay Willis or Ethan Miller

PRESIDENT'S AWARD