

November 1, 2018

North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Letter of support for the Harmony Solar Project in Cass County

Please accept this letter as the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation's support of the proposed Harmony solar energy project being submitted by Geronimo Energy.

Most competitive economic development projects are a process of remaining a viable option for an investment, versus a company looking for ways in which to keep a community in the running. In addition, speed to market for most projects is a significant consideration for expansions and relocations. Support of the Harmony project is important in addressing both of these factors.

First, having spent nearly twenty-five years working economic development projects in Iowa, Colorado and North Dakota, I have witnessed an increased interest (requirement in some cases) by companies to support their energy needs with renewables. The reasons range from corporate responsibility to the demands of their clients. If the Greater Fargo region is going to attract, retain and diversify the economy, as well as to build a more balanced portfolio of economic assets to reduce economic risks, having a variety of energy options will be important.

Second, completing the approval processes to move forward with an economic development project involves many steps, and delays with one aspect of a project could jeopardize a significant investment. The EDC recently completed the certification of a "Shovel-Ready Development Site" within its service territory to address the time-to-market concerns companies have when considering facility growth. Being ready to address the renewable energy needs of primary-sector business via the Harmony Solar Project would fit well with the strategies already being implemented in the Greater Fargo region.

The mission of the EDC is to be a catalyst for economic growth and diversity. Using a comprehensive approach to economic development, the EDC accelerates job and wealth creation in Cass County. This project aligns with those efforts as this project will contribute to a more robust economy and ultimately a better overall quality of life.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this exciting opportunity for our region and state. Feel free to contact our office with any questions or if you need any additional information.

Respectfully,



Joe Raso
President & CEO
Greater Fargo Moorhead EDC

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Exhibit A – Testimony of Joe Raso, President and CEO

Greater Fargo Moorhead EDC

