

Harmony ND Public Service Commission Public Hearing
November 1st, 2018 at 10:00 AM
Days Inn and Governor's Conference Center
2050 Governor's Drive, Casselton, ND 58012

MEMBERS OF THE ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:

My name is Morgan Forness and I currently serve as the Superintendent at Central Cass Public School in Casselton, ND. Previously, I worked in private schools in both Bismarck and Fargo. I am appearing here today on behalf of the Central Cass Public School District in support of the Harmony Solar Project to be built in Cass County.

From my understanding, the Geronimo project will invest over \$250 million in capital investment as well as generate more than 200 on site jobs that filters back over \$20 M in local spending. Additionally, the project will provide 7 full time jobs and generate over \$450,000 in tax revenue annually. What I was most excited to hear however was the plan for Geronimo to establish the Harmony Education Fund that will donate \$40,000 per year to the local school districts, mainly benefitting Mapleton and Central Cass. Those dollars can be utilized in many creative ways be it STEM education or specific learning experiences.

Cass County is a growing demographically and projects that provide job opportunities, investment in community, and diversified industries, benefits us all. As a rural school district, economic development in a manner that is well planned, serves the common good, invests in its local economy, and dedicates educational financial support to it schools are to be applauded.

Lastly, the project has the support of Cass County Government, Harmony Township, Casselton JDA, and various landowners. While Agriculture drives our local economy, additional investments in projects such as clean energy and other new industries offers more stability and economic growth for healthy and dynamic communities. The Harmony Solar Project certainly meets that litmus test.

Geronimo already has and is committed to continued educational support for our schools, both financially and with expanded curriculum and programming opportunities for our students. Thus, I ask your consideration for approving the Harmony Solar Project as it appears to be a win-win all around.

We are all in the business of educating top quality students for the 21st Century, and by working together we are all better for it. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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**Exhibit B – Testimony of Morgan Forness,
Superintendent**

Central Cass Public School

