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**NORTH DAKOTA
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**Testimony of Shaun Quissell, Government Affairs Director
Harmony Solar ND, LLC Public Service Commission Hearing
Casselton, ND
November 1st, 2018**

Chairman Christmann and members of the Public Service Commission, I am Shaun Quissell, Government Affairs Director for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, and I am representing Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today to provide testimony regarding land use surrounding the proposed solar farm.

The Commissioner appreciates the proactive approach to establishing vegetation to protect one of many great resources, our soil. We encourage a diversity of vegetation to promote other potential uses when possible or applicable surrounding the solar panel equipment. We do however, have three areas of concern that we would like the company to focus on prior to planting.

First, we believe it is important to use a licensed North Dakota seed dealer. Using a North Dakota licensed seed dealer will ensure that the mix is suitable for North Dakota, and that the seed species used are not invasive or noxious in North Dakota. We would also like to see a seed mix that contains grasses, forbs and flowers that can be utilized not only by bees, butterflies, and pollinators but by other species, including livestock, as this could be a beneficial manner to control growth and manage weeds.

Secondly, we would ask that a multi-dimensional way of thinking is used to approach this project. Unfortunately, in the past we have seen a one-sided approach focused on pollinators can cause issues for the surrounding properties and production agriculture. We believe the goal should be to provide balance in the ecosystem that supports multiple applications.

Finally, we have concerns about weed control in this project. Specifically, if a noxious weed were found in the project area, who is responsible to control the noxious weeds. North Dakota law states that the landowner is ultimately responsible for controlling noxious weeds, but in this case with a company obtaining easement on such a large tract and having special equipment on the land, we would like to know if the company has made any contractual agreement to control weeds on the property.

Chairman Christmann and Commission members, thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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Exhibit C – Testimony of Shaun Quissell, Government Affairs Director
Department of Agriculture

