

November 1, 2018

Comments for PSC meeting in Casselton, ND RE: Harmony Solar Project

My name is Bernie Sinner and I am the managing agent for the Sinner Bresnahan Land Partnership, LLP, which is one of the landowners in the Harmony Solar project being considered today. Our family land partnership is comprised of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> generation family members totaling over 30 in number. Our family has been in the business of production agriculture in this area since the late 1800's.

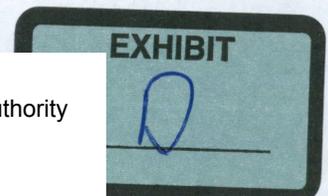
I have been a resident of the Casselton area for most of my life and I am currently employed in Casselton as the Senior Lending Officer for a locally owned bank. Additionally, I have served on the Casselton Job Development Authority for over 18 years and have served as a board member on numerous economic development and nonprofit organizations in the Casselton and greater Fargo area during the last 30 years.

Our land partnership was first introduced to this solar project in 2015 when the developer from Geronimo Energy reached out to us as one of the landowners near the Bison Sub-station located in Sec.11 of Harmony Township. This led to a meeting to learn more about the vision of Geronimo Energy. We were intrigued by the prospect of being part of developing a renewable energy source, creating local jobs and diversifying our revenue sources on the land but we were also concerned about what impact this would have on our family farming operation. As we learned more about the goal of establishing a utility scale solar farm it felt appropriate to dig deeper into the pros and cons of such a decision. Throughout the process of learning about the vision of this solar project, we were also seeking the input of our 30+ family members involved in the land partnership as well as neighbor farmers whom we've worked next to for generations and community stake holders that might be affected by the project.

We were impressed with the culture of Geronimo Energy, which was started by a farmer and landowner who seemed to have a keen understanding of the responsibility of managing finite resources such as farm land. After a number of meetings, a great deal of emails and dialog about terms and specific project details, we came to the decision to move forward with a lease agreement with Geronimo Energy.

To summarize the reasons we are supportive of this project:

- Demand for renewable energy is growing in our state and region and this land near the Bison substation is ideal for connection to the established power transmission lines.
- Geronimo Energy has experience in renewable energy and in North Dakota with the nearby Courtney Wind Farm.
- Geronimo Energy is farmer friendly in their development approach and demonstrated an early awareness and commitment to the communities with which they become involved. They showed this in a number of ways one of which was a contribution to the private sector capital fund drive for the STEM center at Central Cass Schools. Their model also includes an element of annual contribution to a community cause once the project is up and running.
- The job creation, both during construction and long term with an operating solar farm, is positive for our community with significant economic impact.



- The increase to our local property tax base will increase ongoing funding for our schools, township and county. . (see economic impact sheet provided by Geronimo Energy)
- The project provides diversification of income for the land owners
- While solar panels are in use, the land space between will be planted to grasses and plant species which support pollination and healthy soil. The development does not permanently convert the land to non-productive status. If the solar project becomes obsolete in the future, structures could be removed and land could be used for crop production again.

In conclusion, the opportunity to be part of a renewable energy project of this magnitude is positive from many perspectives - personal and local as well as our community and region. Without hesitation, I urge the approval of this permit request.

Thank you.

Bernie Sinner

Casselton Job Development Authority  
Casselton, ND 58012

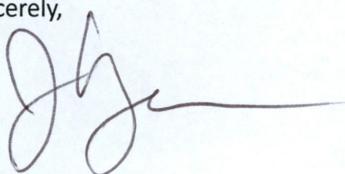
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Geronimo Energy  
7650 Edinborough Way STE 725  
Edina, MN 55435

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On behalf of the Casselton Job Development Authority, I would like to express our support for the Harmony Solar project set to be developed in Cass County. This project provides an opportunity to add jobs to our local market and an increase in annual tax revenue. We are excited to have an opportunity to add skilled jobs to our local market, attracting new employees to our area. This project provides a unique opportunity for diversification of our local industries. This project will have not only a positive economic impact in our community, but will also have a significant positive impact to the environment. We appreciate the time you have put into developing this project and look forward to working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jesse Hagen  
JDA President