

Chair Wendzel, Members of the House Energy Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you today. My name is Kevin Heath from Milan Township in Monroe County.

My family has farmed in our community for several generations. I purchased my first farm when I was 19 years old. My siblings and I inherited the family farm from our parents. My wife and I purchased their home and still live there today

When my brother had to sell some land due to debt he incurred from medical bills, I decided to buy it to keep it in the family. Keeping that legacy alive matters to me. I stretched financially so we could keep the land owned locally and not by an out of state investor or corporate farming outfit. While I was glad to keep it in the family, I need to have non-farm income just to pay the loan payment and property taxes.

When we were approached about hosting solar on the farm, we looked into all the pros and cons. We decided it was the right decision for our family and for our property, I can use the income to put back into maintenance of other farm land I own by employing local services. The Township board passed a reasonable ordinance and we proceeded to sign a lease with the solar company. When a few people opposed it, they started getting support from outside sources. They sent out five-page flyers filled with lies and misinformation. Most people never attended a meeting before.

They were able to recall the only two board members that were open to allowing solar, under false accusations. They now stacked the board and planning commission with people who know nothing about leading a township but oppose the solar. They have restricted it so much that it makes it almost impossible to do anything. This has happened throughout our whole county & state.

We began putting our efforts in working with the state to help us keep our property rights. PA233 was a lifeline for us. We continually hear "Everyone has to abide by restrictions on what they can or cannot do on their property" for example they say "I can't put a strip club on my property". "Solar is an industrial business and belongs in industrial zoning". The difference is, the state of Michigan classified solar as Agricultural. Just because they think it is industrial that is where it belongs. That is their opinion! A fair share of those opposing my right to host solar, moved to an Agricultural zoned district and now want to control the landowners. "They don't want to look at solar or wind because they moved to the country for the view ", what is the difference if a landowner grows corn for ethanol or harvests the sun? or have a pipeline or oil well run through the farm that is regulated by MSPC?

Let's give PA233 a chance to work. People argue that local control has been taken away. That is far from the truth. Many townships have worked with developers creating a working CREO And, a bonus to working with developers, many have received grant money for doing so. Townships have the ability to have some say by working together! They still have a chance and are encouraged to work with developers.

I have attached a list of the townships that have worked with developers and received grant money totaling over 20 million dollars.

Thank you,

Kevin Heath

County	Municipality	Energy project name	Technology type	Megawatts awarded	Total amount awarded	Intended use of award
Wayne	City of Ecorse	Redstart Energy Storage	Storage	200	\$1,000,000	Construct a downriver fairgrounds, including two 4-H barns, a horse track, bump and run, bleachers, farmers market pavilion, and parking.
Wayne	City of Trenton	Trenton Channel Energy Center	Storage	220	\$1,100,000	Street scape enhancements and a City Hall Public Square.
Calhoun	Lee Twp	Sunfish Solar 1 and 2	Solar	808	\$4,040,000	Road and culvert repairs, sherriff deputy contracting, zoning and master plan contracting.
Isabella	Isabella Twp	Mission Road Solar Park	Solar	158	\$395,000	Pave and repair several damaged roads in the Township, remodel the current Township Hall, contribute to new fire department equipment & trucks, upgrade the cemetery and park.
Presque Isle	Pulawski Twp	Little Trout	Solar	89	\$222,500	Paving the Township Hall parking lot and a section of the Lake Augusta Highway.
Branch	Ovid Twp	Coldwater River Solar	Solar	90	\$449,000	
Montcalm	Evergreen Twp	Fish Creek Solar Project	Solar	66	\$330,000	Town Hall renovations and additions, fire station addition, and road improvements.
Branch	Bethel Twp	Branch Solar	Solar	200	\$1,000,000	Township Hall expansion and roadwork.
Jackson	Parma Twp	Jackson County Solar	Solar	125	\$625,000	Township Hall expansion and repair, equipment for community water supply, improve local roads, purchase new software.
Saginaw	Fremont Twp	Eagle Creek Solar Park	Solar	120	\$600,000	Roads, storm drainage improvements, and facility upgrades to the Township Hall and Cemetery.
Washtenaw	Augusta Charter Twp	White Tail Solar	Solar	86	\$429,050	Feasibility study for non-motorized pathway on various roads, and eventual construction of this non-motorized pathway.
Washtenaw	York Twp	White Tail Solar	Solar	61	\$303,900	Improve public roads, drainage, and non-motorized transportation infrastructure in York Township.
Muskegon	Moorland Twp	Crockery Creek Solar, Muskegon Energy Center	Solar	400	\$2,000,000	1 mile of ashpalt reconstruction on East Laketon Ave. and 2 miles of gravel upgrades on Hall Rd.; repair and fill portions of 6 different roads within the Township, totaling at least 10 miles.
Branch	Coldwater Twp	Coldwater River Solar, Tibbits Energy Storage, Cold Creek Solar	Solar	198	\$991,250	Tornado sirens, contributions to the Lakeland Fire Department and Sheriff Department, road improvements, Township hall expansion, playground equipment, and park upgrades.
Montcalm	Day Twp	Freshwater 1 & 2	Solar	300	\$1,500,000	Installing a rooftop solar array on a county building.
Huron	Meade Twp	Silver Creek Solar Park	Solar	114	\$570,000	Road construction, maintenance, repairs, and improvements.
Dickinson	Sagola Twp	Groveland Mine	Solar	21	\$106,500	Upgrading street lights to more efficient models.
Presque Isle	Belknap Twp	Little Trout	Solar	61	\$152,500	Overhaul of the County Courthouse, including HVAC replacement and roof repair.
Sanilac	Watertown Twp	Watertown Solar	Solar	150	\$750,000	Capital improvements of community pavilion, accessible play structures, and parking lot paving.
Dickinson	Norway Twp	Groveland Mine	Solar	51	\$252,500	Road improvements, playground equipment upgrades, and new cemetery equipment.
Cass	Marcellus Twp	Steelhead Solar	Solar	200	\$1,000,000	Road repair, cemetery improvements, Township hall improvements, and increased police protection funding.
Montcalm	Bushnell Twp	Fish Creek Solar Project	Solar	66	\$330,000	Township Hall renovations and additions, Fire Department/ Fire Station additions, Township Park project, and BS&A accounting software.

Gratiot	Bethany Twp	Gratiot Solar Project	Solar	50	\$250,000	Contribution to a bridge project, Township Hall improvements, and road funding.
Lenawee	Raisin Twp	Beecher Solar	Solar	80	\$400,000	Road construction, road maintenance, and construction of a wilderness park with a walking and water trail.
Oceana	Hart Twp	Hart Solar	Solar	120	\$600,000	Master plan update, new offices in Township facilities, and road improvements.
Dickinson	Felch Twp	Groveland Mine	Solar	28	\$141,000	Building an ADA Compliant/Wheelchair Accessible fishing pier and public restroom at the Township's Norway Lake Park and boat launch site.
Barry	Barry County	Spring Creek Solar	Solar	119	\$297,500	Public safety radio project, county buildings camera and AV upgrades, planning and zoning software.
Isabella	Isabella County	Mission Road Solar Park	Solar	158		Upgrades to older buildings, improvements to the fire \$395,000 department including a new rescue vehicle and parking lot, enhancements to Township Hall, paving the cemetery driveway and constructing an urn mausoleum at the cemetery.
Presque Isle	Presque Isle County	Little Trout	Solar	150	\$375,000	Investments to the road network, as well as several improvements to the Township Hall and grounds, including parking lot repairs, new tree plantings, and kitchen, water, heating, and ceiling upgrades.