

From: [smtprelay](#)
To: [Statements](#)
Subject: Statement of Position Submitted by Helen Livingston
Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 9:22:47 AM

Statement of Position Submitted

Name

Helen Livingston

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Docket

Docket Number: EMP-105 Sub 0 - Friesian Solar Farm in Scotland County

Message

I am a Scotland County resident whose family has a solar farm lease just outside Maxton, NC in Robeson County. Brian Bednar came to us in 2011 to discuss siting a solar farm on a portion of a family farm. We are proud to have one of the first solar farms in the area, and very proud of the growth of solar here. We also have a lease with Birdseye on another family farm in Scotland County, in the hope that solar capacity opens up. My family and I believe that the construction of the Friesian project will be to our public benefit. Specifically, we believe that Friesian's construction of \$225 million of needed electrical network upgrades will lead to increased tax base, job opportunities for our seasoned solar workforce, training in a high growth industry and enable current and future industry to meet increasing renewable energy commitments. These are concrete benefits to our community. Beyond the tax benefit of the Friesian project itself (\$160,000 in annual tax revenue initially), the upgrades associated with it would address the constraints identified by Duke Energy and allow additional projects in our county to interconnect.^[1]_{SEP} It has been difficult to watch our community lose population and tax base. First the textile mills left, and now farming has been hit very hard in recent years. In the face of these difficulties, the community has pulled together wonderfully, having put in place fair schools for all, and a new City Hall. I wish you could see "'tis the Season," a part of the downtown redevelopment effort, that creates magical Holiday Festivities through lights and Christmas Trees, and live events, with support which includes individuals, civic groups and the schools. This community has worked very hard to prepare for the future, and the help from the tax revenue from Friesian and extended benefits would go to a well deserving community. I must add that the idea that Scotland County could be a leader in addressing the renewable energy levels that North Carolina hopes to attain, as expressed in the pre-filed Direct Testimony and Exhibits of Rachel Wilson on November 27th, would bring pride and a sense of accomplishment to our area. I encourage the Commission to approve the requested CPCN for Friesian's proposed 70 MW solar facility. Sincerely, Helen Livingston

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