

## RENEWABLE SURVEY WRITTEN COMMENTS

- In my opinion all things related to solar/wind energy should be up to the state of Michigan. Townships current elected officials are not capable of doing the right thing for larger property owners. Unfortunately, we are in the minority.
- Why can't commercial solar/wind be put between expressways?
- What are the benefits to our community for allowing commercial energy? I can think of several downsides, and the only obvious upside is financial gain (short term) for landowners. Why has there been no transparency about project plans/proposals from these companies? They attend every meeting, take notes, but offer no information or feedback on our discussion. That makes me very skeptical of having good intentions in our township.
- We are completely against solar and wind energy in Keene Township
- I wake up every morning and go to bed at night thinking of this! I love where we live but we will move if it goes ahead north of us. We have been here 44 years on a family farm. Breaks our hearts.
- The township already voted that Keene Twp have no solar or wind farms. I don't understand why we need to keep fighting this. Farmland should stay farmland! People can't eat solar panels. Our countryside is beautiful. We do not want it destroyed by solar farms and wind farms.
- We are spending trillions chasing CO2 (0.038% of the atmosphere). Not the problem. Science will soon prove solar variables are the cause of climate change.
- The land owners should have the right to put/do what they want to the property they own.
- The recent state statute prevents a township from preventing solar and wind energy farms. The only choice a township has is to be as restrictive as state law allows including setbacks and site barriers. The ultimate solution is to change the state laws that prevent townships from adopting ordinances that regulate solar and wind energy while still allowing renewable energy that is compatible with the township's land and resources. A new revolution is needed to take control of the current push for renewable energy that is dependent on taxpayer contributions.
- Farms are a business, most of which have been owned in a family for generations. I don't believe neighbors should be able to dictate someone else's business.
- Lessees should be required to have the solar or wind project right next to their primary residence
- Site should be regular manicured
- I am pretty neutral on this subject. But I do not know, is solar the answer since it is very cloudy. I hate to see prime farmland used up on a "solar farm" that can't generate enough power.
- I don't live out here to look at that eye sore. I can't have an unlicensed vehicle on my property but they can litter our view. Not right!
- Your property is your property, use it to your advantage. But until a way to recycle is figured out there should be minimal use. No wind turbines at all.
- The vote was clear- 70% of us do not want any commercial solar/wind. So why are you doing this survey- enough already. Stop this now. No Wind. No Solar.
- My wife and I have stayed out of this fight, but upon hearing about it we drove to several solar farms in the state and spoke to the neighbors. We could not find anyone who was bothered by living next to a solar farm. One woman, who lived right next to a farm listed all the same talking points we have heard from others, but in the negative. "They don't make any sound, cause any

glare, or kill any birds (that she noticed). I think these talking points are being provided by a competing interest.

- Solar takes up too much land to be effective and I am surprised the DEQ has not restricted the ordinances due to protected animals such as bald eagles and cranes. The power produced by solar loses 50% of the power traveling through the power lines and has one of the poorest efficiencies in energy travel. Lastly, the reflections alone at particular times of the year will be very annoying
- I am opposed to wind turbines or solar panels
- For property owners that have solar and wind farms, the farms should be located in close proximity to the area in which they live, if possible, such that the property owners view is solar and wind farms. That way others who do not want to have the farms visible may potentially be impacted less. Also, I think it is best that the state does not dictate local issues.
- Keep our county rural
- We live in the country to enjoy the beauty. Enjoy the wildlife, listen to the birds' choir and just enjoy our beautiful view that God created. Not to listen to a buzzing sound from solar panels across the way or to look out the window at dark panels surrounding our view.
- No Solar by homes, period.
- I have lived in Keene Township for about 20 years. In that time, I have been awoken in the middle of the night due to the smell of cow manure drifting through the neighborhood, patiently driven down roads behind tractors, driven through manure that has been spilled in the road and had tractors pull out in front of me. I have been patient with it because I WANT to live in a farming community. By definition, farming is the activity of raising crops or livestock. Solar and wind collections is not farming and will change the landscape of our entire community.
- Solar and Wind energy are the wrong fit for Keene Township
- Keep it like it is. Don't want to see solar or wind projects here in Keene.
- There are better options than using all of the good farm land that our families used all the last 100's of years.
- We moved here for the setting and the view. Solar panels and wind turbines would ruin that. We would consider moving but these will lower our property values.
- I believe that discussing wind turbines is just being mentioned as a scare tactic.
- I feel questions 4-6 are trick questions. There should be no solar or wind in this area and needs to go back to California.
- Would hunting be effective around these solar panels? Would they withstand hail storms? Who would be responsible for upkeep around the structures? What is the noise of these?
- People who own land should be able to do what they want with their land.
- I do not support any solar or wind farms in Keene Township. Regardless of size or setbacks. Re: Questions 4,5,6- Answer should not matter as I am against solar/wind projects of any kind in Keene Township
- Allow property owners to utilize land as they choose
- We have this situation in our area in northern Michigan. No way I wish to have this here.
- I would be interested in small scale renewable energy options
- We would prefer zero solar panels and windmills
- If I answer that "there should be a setback" haven't I said that "I think it is okay as long as there is a setback?". This feels like entrapment. I thought we just recently decided this issue!

- What doesn't the township board understand, solar (commercial) has already been voted no by the majority.
- No solar or wind projects
- These types of projects should be in industrial zoned areas, not on prime farmland. Our township should be dedicated to preserving farmland and protecting residents from water pollution, stray voltage, EMFS, Glare, Flicker, Vibration, and noise. We should be focused on keeping our rural heritage and not selling out to temporary left-wing subsidies.
- Please put a pause on green energy. There is way too much controversy and no reason for Keene Township to be the guinea pig. Solar and wind power will drive the cost of electricity up, making it less reliable, blackouts. Government is wasting taxpayers' money so a few corporations and land owners can get rich. Keep Keene township the way it is, no solar or wind power.
- I agree on Solar Panels only to benefit the residential or small businesses for helping save on energy costs.
- Solar is not yet proven to be worth the cost in Michigan. Our percentage of daily sun is too low.
- Limit number of solar panel/wind turbine sites in the township
- Since current commercial solar and wind is subsidized by taxpayers up to 60%, all taxpayers should have a voice in its approval. It should not be treated the same as privately funded development of property. Other development (not solar & wind) should be regulated by current zoning regulations. And since the state wishes to impose their plan for solar and wind, it's obvious that this is a political issue, not a landowner rights issue.
- We need more natural gas or nuclear power plants built in non-desirable areas. Not on farmland, farmland should be used to produce food and food only. A majority of us do not want solar or wind. So, start representing what the majority wants!!
- Panels or wind will kill the wildlife!
- Put it on a ballot
- We are zoned for a reason. Stuff like this should not even be happening here. This is farm country not solar! IF this goes through you need to de-zone Keene so that way, we can sell acre pieces and watch housing developments go in. A lot of people will be leaving Keene Township because of this.
- Stop. Just stop. Quit seeing dollar signs and start caring about the environment i.e.: wildlife and agriculture. We do not want this in our township!!!
- Solar power that's built in a township should only service that township
- We shouldn't have commercial wind/solar in our township ruining people's property values
- Wind and Solar like it or not it's here to stay. Police it reasonably and let people decide for themselves.
- Setbacks- FARAWAY! We want to see our beautiful views. What the township thinks is fair to homeowners and does not decrease our home value.
- I don't think solar or wind should be in our township at all. Farmland and country living should not have to deal with these eye sores.
- My wife and I are both very against any wind turbines in Keene Twp. They are not farming and are at a minimum, eyesores. Same with solar. They are NOT farms, they are industrial. We choose not to live near industrial parks.
- 100 feet to power your home or farm no more.
- I might advocate for home scale solar systems, but do not believe Keene Twp is a suitable location for Solar/Wind facilities

- Let land owners use their land. Quit being so unreasonable. There is an ordinance in place that allows solar and should be able to be used. Fighting so hard to stop it is exactly why the state needs to take over. Keene Twp will be a prime location for state takeover because they won't allow an ordinance to be used as intended.
- Any land use in Agriculture or Pasturing of livestock in the last 25 years should not qualify. All energy produced in Ionia states in Ionia, not Detroit or anywhere else. The Cost of our monthly bills must be lowered and never exceed our current cost. If it is done to benefit the largest majority (not just a few) of the people. It makes no sense to have it at all.
- If a property owner sells land for any solar, all wind or solar should be located as far to the back of the property as possible from adjoining roads. This would make them less visible and not affect property owners home values as much
- Anyone knows solar only makes money from government tax breaks and subsidies. Meanwhile, 25 years of an eye sore. I understand why the landowners want to do this. Money. Very attractive money. I grew up in a solar/wind country and it's not pretty. Once it's done, 25 years is a long time to "check it out." Do your research. I do not believe Saranac is a good fit. But respectfully, I do not own this land.
- I do not want any type of wind or solar projects in the township
- No to all solar or wind facilities!! Our property values will decrease to the benefit of a handful of property owners.
- Limit was tried in our township but was voted down by the people. Reasonable setbacks yes, to large setbacks will have renewable energy scattered throughout the entire township
- Utility scale solar and wind do not belong in Keene Township. Can we speak any louder than the clear defeat of the referendum vote? When greedy landowners sign these leases, and talk about their rights, they fail to consider the transmission lines that will destroy neighboring landowners and the largest investment they have- their homes. Many may lose their homes to eminent domain. What about their rights? What about their "401k"? Our master plan never once talks about industrial solar or wind being allowed on prime farmland. This is taking MY tax dollars and using it to destroy MY home.
- While we would not want solar or wind, we also feel that people have the right to earn money from their property. It seems that these farms (solar/wind) are being put on farm land. We believe that the farmers have the right to earn an income from their properties. Farming is a hard business and if by renting a field or two for their projects, they might earn enough to keep a farm that has been in their family for 3 or 4 generations. They should have that option. It is a better option than bankruptcy. While solar or wind panels are not ideal, they would be preferable to housing developments. I would rather have a field across the street. I can live with a field and a solar/wind setup. I do not want a housing development because the farmer sold out. Farmers are 3.5x more likely to die by suicide than the general population. Keeping a family farm is a huge responsibility. They need to earn money to keep their legacy.
- Why are you spending tax dollars on a survey you already know the results of after turning our township board upside down? If you limit the number of acres per project that means you burn up more area (parcels) to get the same results. (Like putting more houses on smaller parcels to limit the amount of land used per house). That does not make good sense. Also effects more land owners that don't want it. I would much rather have wind or solar next to me than more houses. But that info is already in the Master Plan of Keene. Please stop wasting township money (taxpayer dollars) on fighting solar and wind projects both large and small. It is not legal to make a use illegal. You can only regulate it. (Michigan House Bill 5120). Please wake up here and stop wasting our money.

- There was a special vote on this matter! The Keene township residents clearly voted NO to Solar Industrial Power and wind!! This should have been done after the vote! I bought my home 9 years ago to enjoy my peace in the country and to enjoy the wild life I see every day.
- I'm more worried about what happens when equipment ages and the owner goes bankrupt, leaving these assets stranded and property unusable.
- I would prefer our township to enact rules and restrictions rather than the state telling us what to do. Thus, it is necessary to have something in place. One Twp has restrictions that it can only be developed in wet/lowlands.
- Solar and wind facilities should be restricted to be placed on commercial and industrial zone areas ONLY
- It's been established that solar doesn't pay in our areas. What was the outcome of the testing stations?
- Save agricultural land for farming and animals
- Hasn't been enough time for accurate real estate studies to be done to know if land value will go down. That is my main concern, along with economic changes to the area because of it. We need all the farmland we can keep because a food shortage is predicted. Put solar panels and wind turbines on government property where it's not viable for farming, or on building roofs or contaminated lands
- I believe the landowner should have the right to decide about the issue of a solar project but within the zoning limits
- We prefer no solar or Wind in Keene Township
- How safe are they for animals? Will the turbines or solar panels affect our water and air? And what about the noise and property value? When a car passes by wind turbines, they are noisy.
- I don't believe anyone's property right should impact the value of the township or its residents' health or well-being.
- Yes, when the zoning was initially presented to the township, it was under the pretense that it would allow private use of solar energy. It was never understood it would allow commercial zoning of solar energy. The farmers knew the consequences, but failed to make it known.
- Good fertile land should not be covered with solar panels. The world population is growing every year and that land is needed to feed the increased population. There are thousands of acres between the expressways, put solar there.
- How about educating the residents on the true realities of green energy like: The amount of fossil fuels it takes to produce, operate and maintain turbines. Each turbine has 80 gallons of oil in them for lubrication, it has to be changed yearly. What happens to a solar farm in a hailstorm? The destroyed solar panels leach the toxic chemicals that are in them into the soil, making the soil useless and eventually the groundwater. These are just 2 examples. There's plenty more documented. Then ask the question: Who really benefits from these things? Not really the residents/people.
- How much water is required per megawatt of energy provided? We have heard it is a lot. Concern about long term solar would seriously reduce water tables. Also, in the past wind power was deemed safe. Now I read that the turbines can cause serious stress and medical issues to animals and humans in range.
- Setbacks: 700 feet from non-participating parcel (lot line with a dwelling); 500 feet from road; 300 feet from non-participating parcel (lot line with no dwelling)
- The questions regarding setbacks seem to leave out important context. Panels on a neighbor's roof probably don't need extra setback requirements. Large installations do need setbacks. But these should be a minimum from property lines (say 500 feet) and a minimum from dwellings (say 1,320ft). We think commercial solar developments are incompatible with residential land

use. So, commercial solar should not be permitted if dwellings are nearby. Land owners could work around this by acquiring neighboring homes.

- I personally feel that if a person chooses to live in a rural agricultural area, it's because we prefer to have less commercial property. I do not desire our beautiful natural landscape to be filled with industrial sized solar/ wind or battery storage facilities. Our voices should be respected along with our votes in the communities we reside in.
- Our main concern is the setback of the adjacent properties should not be affected by the utilities. If there has to be one, solar would be the better option
- I believe we need to be courteous to our neighbors. Consider setbacks for existing homes and not be as restrictive on roadway setbacks. Solar should have setbacks but 500 feet is extreme. Wind- need to consider height with setbacks. Solar will never be as noisy as wind generators. We eat up farm land with new homes all the time. A Farmer should be able to put solar in, instead of homes if that is their preference. Personally, I rather view solar panels than a bunch more houses. Much less conflict.
- Keene township should not be taken over for this purpose. Do we get a break with our energy bill? No, we do not.
- You should be following the master plan of Keene Township
- Keep township AG
- What I would like to say is take the solar where the land can't be used for food. The government is doing a good job at that. I see that the government has separated people and now we have it in our township. Neighborhoods are not like it used to be. Now we are fighting with each other. Love your neighbor as yourself, there is no other commandment greater than these. Mark 12:31
- I feel like wind and solar can be an important part of our energy problems solution. I would like to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. I believe land owners and especially farm owners should have the right to farm energy instead of crops if they choose to.
- It is wrong to oppose solar farms. You are being used by oil/gas companies. Please allow landowners the freedom to sue their property in this manner if they choose.
- The protect Keene people need to become open minded and listen to everyone. Everyone will never agree 100% of the time. And they need to stop forcing their opinions on everyone else. I can't tell others what to do with their property.
- It's been very obvious that Keene Township residents do not want solar. 75% of the residents voted NO and there has been board members voted out because of the high number of people against these ideas. What else do we need to do to make it clear that we do NOT want it? Other than the handful of farmers and land owners' families. How about we follow the Keene Master Plan?
- Absolutely no wind please
- Should ask if in favor of renewable energy in general. Wind turbines are measured by the height of the highest blade, not feet to property lines. Should have asked preferred setback solar panels to dwellings
- A football field is 45,000 square feet. An Acre is 43,560 square feet. Not including end zones; another 9,000ft. Wind turbine setback is 1.25x max tip height. Answers are different from questions. I don't want solar or wind on my property. I DO want the right to have it.
- Solar and wind are completely different things. Solar is easy to hide and pretty quiet. Wind turbines are big and seen from long distances. Covering good ag land with panels seems short sighted. We are in a very poor area for solar due to the amount of cloudiness from the lake

effect. Less efficient than other parts of the state. If we must have solar, make it proportionate to our usage with a little extra for export.

- Rural areas should not allow siting of Industrial/Commercial wind or solar due to the master plan excluding it. 20% lot coverage, explanation of surrounding areas around Keene able to site in Brownfield or Industrial zones (ex: Ionia, Lowell, GR), local fire departments are not equipped with equipment and the “high risk” of contamination to water, wildlife and residents’ health and safety. Lastly, the proven loss of equity in non-participating properties affecting residents home values (which historically are peoples’ largest asset at retirement)
- We do not want wind/solar commercial anything in our township. Put it in the big city.
- \*\*When wind & solar to zero from the tax payers in subsidies, then I am open to listening. Nuclear power. And spend our tax dollars as you would spend your own. Green energy is a government trying to prop up an economy.
- We will need renewable energy before too long. The township seems to have a problem with allowing it, yet has no ordinances for farms that are rusting into the groundwater and are a bigger eyesore than solar or wind farms would ever be. And as much as I don’t want the state mandating everything in my township, it would be better than the unqualified people trying to run Keene Township.
- Need to require cattle grazing under panels 50% minimum.
- I think farmland should be kept as farm land. Solar/wind are not energy saving when you consider all of the oil and natural resources it takes to run and the upkeep on them. Also, the minerals and mining needed to make them.
- Landowners should have the right to decide what can be put on their property. Land owners should not be able to decide what color their neighbor paints their house, what trees, flowers, decorations they put in their yard or solar panels! They have the right to look in another direction or move.
- I would not want any wind or solar projects anywhere in Keene Township regardless of acreage limits, minimum setbacks or designated areas.
- NO!
- My property my choice
- We live in the country for one reason- to be in the country not commercial land like town housing developments etc. If the people are not going to use farm land for what it is for, sell it and move into town.
- Need to require 25% min be grazed under the panels.

A written comment was received in letter form and was included with a returned survey (see separate link)