

Scout comments on solar energy proposal

I am writing in response to a recent Tri-Town News article, "Sierra Club, DEP Join Chorus Opposing Solar Power Plan." I am a New Egypt Troop 109 Boy Scout working on my Communication merit badge toward my Eagle Scout rank. One of the requirements is to read an article and send a response to the article's author.

I would like to thank Tri-Town News staff writer Andrew Martins for writing about the solar power plan Six Flags Great Adventure is proposing to construct in Jackson. My family has solar panels on our roof, so we understand the importance of clean energy use.

I feel that solar panel projects, even big ones like the one Great Adventure is proposing, are great ways to be conservative when it comes to large amounts of energy use; especially since panels give back to the grid unused energy.

As a Scout, we follow a Scout law that includes being thrifty. Conserving energy through solar energy is a great example of being thrifty.

However, the article also highlights some of the wildlife that will be affected by this project. In addition to all of the tree life that will be cut down, thousands that were mentioned in the article, the project threatens Barred owls and the northern pine snake. This is very upsetting to me.

Scouts live by an outdoor code and "leave no trace," and this loss of tree life and lack of consideration for the protected species is reason alone to not support the solar panel project.

I am hoping Great Adventure would consider a way to put the solar panels on already existing cleared land and not move forward with upsetting so much wildlife and tree life.

I would not support a project of this nature, not even if it would bring the cost down for admission to the park since they would be saving so much money in electric use. I would rather pay the current price and save the land, than reduce the cost for only moments of fun at the park.

Thank you for taking the time to report this very important issue.

P.J. McMahon

Troop 109 First Class Scout

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