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To whom it may concern

**RE: Written Submission for Deadline 2 on Sunnica NIP Examination.**

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Sunnica Energy farm project.

- If allowed to proceed, this huge monstrous scheme would transform our existing agricultural and rural landscape into an industrial site. I understand the role that solar energy will play, alongside other renewable energy sources in a quest for a carbon neutral future, but this goal mustn't be achieved by showing callous disregard for the villages and local communities that will be affected for generations. In its current form, Sunnica wouldn't be a solar farm but a sprawling power plant, the size of Newmarket. Further industrial development would likely follow.
- This project would ride roughshod over the design principles for national infrastructure, as set by the National Infrastructure Commission.
- It would have a negative impact on the local residents' quality of life, health and wellbeing, by depriving them of the enjoyment of the countryside. Their almost universal opposition to the scheme cannot be ignored. They would suffer a loss of amenities through closure of public rights of way (footpaths, bridleways...) during the construction phase and potentially in the long term. Countryside access to walkers, cyclists and riders is of huge importance to encourage physical activities and mental health. The noise and glare caused by the panels have not been properly addressed.
- People have chosen to live in villages to enjoy the country life. This project would devastate the countryside. It would have a very negative visual impact by dramatically altering the landscape. It would be impossible to integrate such a scheme into our undulating landscape, through normal mitigation. I would face the prospect of driving through a sea of solar panels every morning on my way to work and back. Loss of irreplaceable wildlife habitats would be inevitable. The increased traffic during the construction phase

would lead to deterioration of an inadequate road network, not designed for HGVs, and would create congestion and affect road safety.

- It would lead to loss of quality, valuable productive farmland and loss of employment related to agriculture at a time when food self reliance is of the utmost importance for this country. No obvious economic or social benefits for the local communities have been identified. The effect on property values could be catastrophic with the prospect of living in the middle of an industrial power plant discouraging young people keen to raise their families in the country, from moving to the area.
- Battery storage near residential developments and schools raises serious safety issues, which have not been studied thoroughly.
- I have been an equine veterinary surgeon in Newmarket for over 30 years and I am very worried about the threat this scheme would represent to the long term viability of the equine industry and ancillary businesses in and around the town, by discouraging owners from investing in bloodstock. The visual impact of waves of panels seen from the historical Limekilns gallops would be horrendous. A negative effect on tourism, which plays a significant part in the local economy, must also be considered.
- The issue of decommissioning and the lack of firm commitment by Sunnica regarding its funding are other causes for concern. How can they pretend that the land would be returned to its original purpose? Will the costs be borne by the taxpayers?