

From: [Richard Williams](#)
To: [REDACTED]; [Mallard Pass Solar](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; [John Williams](#); [Mike Williams GAWF](#)
Subject: Mallard Pass Solar Farm
Date: 08 May 2024 18:55:15

To Whom It May Concern.

Re: Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Further to the applicant's letter dated 15th April [*ref EN010127*], I am disgusted to confirm that an entity owned and controlled by the Williams family has entered into a legally binding agreement with the applicant in relation to our land interests. As a result of this I am withdrawing my objection to the Mallard Pass Project. The factual content of my representations speaks for itself.

Whilst it was disappointing that the Secretary of State did not see fit to request an update regarding negotiations over the Williams family land in the consultation letter of 13th March, it was not surprising. Like us, she is probably aware that her own Department's "Renewable Energy Planning Database" shows the statistical near certainty that the Planning Inspectorate will recommend that consent is granted. Of the forty three recommendations they have made to date, forty two have been for consent to be granted (inc. one partial consent) [*see table in REP2-234 and then add in Longfield*].

We attended most of the examination hearings and whilst I don't think we heard a single word from a director of Mallard Pass Solar Farm or Canadian Solar Inc. (Messrs. Qu, Chang, Zhuang, Zhang & Arias), we listened to a squad of well polished/expensive city lawyers and assorted desk based "experts for hire", who had been preparing for several years, go to great lengths to explain that their sow's ear is in fact the silk purse that government/policy desires. It was clear to us that the entire "process" was to pay lip service to the genuine and valid concerns of those who will be affected by the development, who had only a few months to prepare themselves and had negligible professional or financial support. The ongoing pretence by the Examining Authority that anything other than a recommendation to grant consent would be made is one of the cruelest spectacles I have witnessed.

At the recent Westminster Hall debate "This House has considered large scale solar farms", which was only attended by conservative MPs; nearly all those who spoke repeated the rural community's concerns over the abuse of the government's policy (although speakers preferred to refer to unintended consequences) and the NSIP process.

In a recent interview with the Daily Telegraph (30th March '24), the Secretary of State was critical of the Labour party's pledge to convert Britain to "clean power" by 2030 and stated:

- *"that Sir Keir Starmer's target to "decarbonise" the electricity grid five years earlier than the Conservatives' 2035 target would mean going "too fast, too soon", resulting in a "made in China" transition, because of a need to import key materials to have any hope of achieving the plan within six years."*
- *Ms Coutinho said she was "working very hard to build British supply chains"*
- *She added: "In terms of energy, we've just seen a period where continental Europe has had to wean itself off Russian oil and gas, we can't do that to just then be dependent on China for critical minerals."*
- *"... as we're thinking through the energy policy of the next couple of decades, we're looking at all those components of the supply chain to make sure that we are secure and we're not overly reliant on one part of the world."*
- *"So that means that what Labour are putting forward is a 'made in China' transition, but I want one that's made in Britain."*

Clearly, the glut of Chinese solar panels currently flooding the market may make the made in Britain bit a touch tricky.....Fortunately, Canadian Solar may be able to help. Listen to what Milfred Hammerbacher [*Past President of Canadian Solar Solutions*] has to say in the YouTube video "Green Energy Futures – episode 15: Canadian Solar photovoltaic manufacturing – We go inside the plant" [Oct. 2012].

It seems that Canadian Solar's first manufacturing plant outside of China (in Guelph,

Ontario) was a direct result of Ontario introducing its Green Energy Act in May 2009. Under the Act, the feed in tariff incentive applied only to those solar panels that had been made in Ontario. On 3rd December 2009 Canadian Solar announced that it intended to build a solar manufacturing facility in Ontario [see "*Investor Relations*" section of *Canadian Solar website*]. On August 11th 2010 it had decided that Guelph Ontario was the right place for this to happen [see "*Investor Relations*" section of *Canadian Solar website*] and was expected to start production the following year. An estimated 500 jobs were created and a "Made in Canada" result was achieved, with the attendant tax/revenue benefits accruing to the local exchequer.

But be careful what you wish for – the Green Energy Act was repealed in 2019 due to over production, higher consumer prices and to ensure that municipalities regained planning authority over renewable projects. Jamie McGarvey (President of the Association of Municipalities in Ontario) said at the time "Renewable energy projects should be guided by the ambitions and visions of communities and the people who live there. They should not be imposed." Monte McNaughton, the minister for infrastructure commented "'The Green Energy Act allowed the previous government to trample over the rights of families, businesses and municipalities across rural Ontario. But we believe the people of Ontario should have the final say about what gets built in their communities.'"

We were told at the beginning of the examination process that it was not the place to object to government policy as we have that opportunity when a general election comes round. Well, that time is nearly upon us, and the rural communities affected by the lunacy of current policies will judge those who made them harshly.

The country and the countryside deserve better.

Yours ashamedly

Richard Williams