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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as the Member of Parliament for the Gainsborough constituency to represent the views of my constituents as their democratically elected representative.

Having spoken to a great many local residents, employers, workers, and other interested parties, I have been impressed by the breadth and the depth of opposition to this project.

I have stated time and again my opposition to taking good land out of productive agricultural use, especially at a time when global food distribution networks continue to be threatened and undermined by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Furthermore, ministers have reassured me that the National Planning Policy Framework continues to uphold the presumption against these kinds of projects being built on agricultural land graded 1, 2, or 3a. In fact, land graded 3b is just as good for growing wheat and grain and I have encouraged the existing protections to be extended to 3b land.

If approved, this project would undermine the food security of our country and the world, as well as threatening the agricultural community of Lincolnshire. Such an approval would ride roughshod over the sensible and reasonable views of local residents.

This proposal is part of a series of proposals for solar projects that should be considered all together, rather than being heard individually. The impact this proposal would have in conjunction with the others if approved would result in an entirely unwelcome level of grotesque overdevelopment which would swamp Gainsborough and its surrounding areas which would total up to 10,000 acres. In my view if these applications are not considered all together than the total acreage of these proposals should be much reduced.

The fact that these proposals are not being taken together means that the Planning Inspectorate considering them will not be able to understand the cumulative impact of these proposals.

It is also totally unclear that the applicants have made any attempt to provide community gain in the hope of alleviate the very obvious demerits of their proposals. This total lack of engagement with the local community is thoroughly deplorable and provides further grounds for objection.

Parliamentary business requires my presence in London otherwise I would be taking part in the hearing regarding Cottam in person, as indeed I am planning to take part in the hearing regarding West Burton later in the week.

I reiterate the views of my constituents as well as stating my very clear opposition to this proposal. The wisest course of action would be to reject it entirely.

Yours ever,



EDWARD LEIGH MP