WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

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Terry A. Clements
Legislator, 11th District
Chair, Intergovernmental Services

Committee Assignments
Appointments
Minority Affairs Task Force

To: Ben Boykin, Chairman of the Board of Legislators
Catherine Borgia, Chair, Committee on Budget & Appropriations
Nancy Barr, Chair, Committee on Environment Health & Energy
Sunday Vanderberg, Clerk of the Board of Legislators

FROM: Terry Clements, Legislator, 11th District

DATE: August 1, 2018

RE: Solar Farms

I recently attended a tour of a Solar Farm at Antioch College in Yellow Springs Ohio. The College uses the farm as a source of revenue, by selling the solar energy to the local power grid. This model is good for the environment and could prove to be a revenue source for the county.

I respectfully request that this memo be referred to the Committees on Environment, Health & Energy and Budget & Appropriations for further discussion and investigation as to whether this is a plausible option for Westchester County. Please see below for further information.

A photovoltaic power station, or otherwise know as a solar farm, is a large-scale photovoltaic system (PV system) designed for the supply of merchant power to an electricity grid.

A solar farm can be located many places throughout a municipality. It can turn a closed landfill, a brownfield site or even some superfund sites into economically productive parcels. It can be placed on large commercial properties either on the ground or possibly on rooftops. There may even be instances where it can also be placed on farm land or unprotected open space, though the municipality, community, and developer should all agree that this is the best use for the land before the development proceeds. No matter what kind of land is being used, the site must have the correct solar orientation, geology, topography and should be close to an area where there is a sufficient demand for electricity and a means to distribute it are available.

There are many issues that must be addressed when considering solar farming as a revenue source. From financing, insurance and construction standards to environmental factors such as storm water, fencing, tree replacement and glare from the solar panels.

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