

14. SOLAR ENERGY

We support:

1. Solar energy generation as a component of the energy portfolio of the U.S.
2. Public and private efforts to develop solar energy projects in the State of Illinois.
3. The establishment of statewide standards for commercial solar energy conversion systems that provide adequate protection of public health and safety, protect private property rights, and allow for reasonable development of commercial solar energy conversion system projects. Such standards should include, but are not limited to, farmland preservation, protection of natural resources, and ensuring adequate funds are in place for decommissioning.
4. Requiring an Agriculture Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) to be filed with the Illinois Department of Agriculture for all commercial solar energy projects.
5. A statewide standard for assessing solar energy projects.
6. Legislation requiring the owner of the solar energy project to pay 100% of the property taxes associated with their solar energy generation at the time they are due.
7. Efforts to locate solar energy projects on marginal or underused lands, including brownfield sites, rather than highly productive, tillable farmland.
8. County Farm Bureau efforts to work with their county officials to develop appropriate solar land use regulations for their county.
9. Legislation allowing the landowner the option to terminate a solar lease agreement if the solar panels fail to produce energy for a period longer than 12 consecutive months.
10. Written notice of intent to construct given to drainage districts and neighbors with tile outlets passing thru the proposed solar farm. Right to repair tile shall be maintained.

We oppose:

1. Giving private solar energy or solar development companies public utility status.
2. Statewide regulations requiring a notice of intent to construct for solar energy projects.
3. Statewide regulations requiring a public hearing prior to the construction of a solar energy project.