

Subject: FW: Concern Regarding Proposed Solar Farms Near Airport

From: Stevie Rae Luzzi

Date: September 22, 2025 at 08:50:46 EDT

To: Matthew Scott <m.scott@cityssm.on.ca>

Subject: Concern Regarding Proposed Solar Farms Near Airport

Good Morning Councillor Scott,

My name is Stevie Luzzi. I am a Registered Professional Forester (R.P.F.) in Ontario and recently moved back to Sault Ste. Marie after 12 years in Toronto; I was fortunate to purchase my first home in Ward 1.

I am writing to you today on behalf of the forest, as well as my family, to express our concern about the proposed solar farms near the Sault Ste. Marie airport. Our family has been privileged to own a camp at Point des Chenes for the past fifty years. During the COVID-19 pandemic and this past winter, I lived there and witnessed the wildlife, biodiversity, and overall health of the land proposed for these alternative energy sources.

As an R.P.F., I am baffled as to why we would remove (clearcut) an old-growth forest to build a solar farm. This area is home to a healthy deer population and serves as a corridor for many other four-legged creatures that rely on it for sustenance and to access their wintering grounds south and east of the airport. Pileated woodpeckers—indicators of old-growth forest—are abundant. Bald eagles, birch, and white pine trees—both ecologically and culturally significant to First Nations—play a vital role in the health of this forest. Understory plants, where cultural and fruit-bearing species grow, contribute to habitat, biodiversity, nutrient cycling, and carbon sequestration, along with other values that cannot be measured.

I respectfully ask Council to reconsider this decision and to explore alternative sites that avoid the destruction of an old-growth forest.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In good spirit,

Stevie Luzzi, MFC, RPF
Forest Conservation Coordinator
Wahkohtowin Development