



Dear Fellow Romans,

9/4/2025

Picture this: Our scenic Rome landscapes, now overshadowed by towering industrial panels, are losing not just their aesthetic charm but their essence.

I am writing to you on behalf of our community regarding the proposed 2000-acre Industrial Solar Farm project in Rome. We respectfully request your support in reconsidering this initiative, as we believe it could have a significant impact on our cherished community.

****Major Concerns****

- Help us preserve our community's unique character. This project could diminish the natural beauty, sense of peace, and serenity we treasure, while also threatening habitat for local wildlife.
- We value our current recreational spaces, which include UTV and snowmobile trails, wildlife habitats, and the fresh atmosphere that fosters community connections and enhances quality of life.
- Possible Impact on Property Values. The development could potentially affect the investments in your home or business.
- We are deeply concerned about the long-term ecological consequences this project may have for our town.

According to Peter K. Acker, "Solar power is not as clean, green, or renewable as sometimes claimed by multinational corporations. Solar energy requires substantial raw materials (concrete, steel, glass, copper, aluminum, plastic, and heavy metals—all of which involve fossil fuels and mining) per terawatt. Some express concern that solar power can be dirty, expensive, unreliable, and visually disruptive." (Smithfield Times Letter to the Editor published July 10, 2024.)

Studies have shown that the construction of such projects can lead to a decline in biodiversity. Recent surveys indicate a decrease in native species populations, including a reduction in local bird and small mammal species over the past five years. Moreover, property assessments in areas adjacent to similar developments in nearby regions have shown a decrease, which negatively influences home values. These local insights bolster the external claims and underscore the potential risks we face.

****Fellow Romans must Unite to Continue this Fight****

We need every property owner, supporter, and concerned citizen to come together and make your voice heard. Join us on Saturday, September 27th, at 10 AM at the Rome Town Hall for the informational Solar Farm Meeting. Our goal is to fill every seat in the hall and deliver at least 500 signed statements from community members. Attend, ask questions, express your concerns, and show our elected officials that our community stands united against this project.

Stand with your neighbors and say **NO** to the Rome Solar Farm to help protect our community. Your efforts and attendance at the meeting are crucial in preventing this project from moving forward. After the meeting, we encourage you to continue the momentum by engaging in the following actions: Join a petition signing drive, participate in letter-writing teams to reach out to local and state officials, and join us for future protesting events. Staying active in these efforts ensures that our voices continue to be heard long after the meeting adjourns.

Sincerely,
Lori Pritzl-O'Keefe
Member of the Ad Hoc Solar Farm Committee



This is what Nextera/Akron expect to place on 2,000 acres visible on both sides of Rt 13 coming into Rome from the north!