



Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc.

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WIND, WATER AND FUTURE

1 Nov 2016

Cascade County Zoning Board of Adjustment
121 4th Street North #2H-2I
Great Falls, MT 59401

Subject: Portage Solar, LLC and Cypress Creek Renewables Unclassified Use Permit Applications

Dear board members,

Citizens for Clean Energy (CCE), Inc. (a non-profit 501c3) strongly supports both applications and urges the board to please approve these pioneering renewable energy projects which benefits the community and is consistent with the Cascade County Growth Policy and existing policies.

CCE is confident the planning staff, the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the county commissioners will exercise due-diligence and oversight to insure these solar projects will be successful and provide revenue and safeguards for the land-owners and county treasury and be profitable for the solar developers. Cascade County itself has developed a 50kw wind-system and is using limited solar at public works facility for the county.

Harry Mitchell and the Pierce family are to be commended for being – to our knowledge in the county – the first to take the bold steps to work with Portage Solar and Cypress Creek and show how these projects will help add clean energy to our local and national energy grids and expand a growing interest in commercial and utility level solar plants beside private and rural applications on farms and ranches. Solar is heavily used in Texas and Oklahoma where solar sheds provide shade for cattle AND generate electricity to power the water wells for the cattle.

The unclassified use permit and revised zoning regulations should provide effective tools to insure the projects are in compliance and benefit our county's economic and energy goals.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Liebert
Chair, Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc.
Lt. Colonel (Retired) US Army

PS – in the interest of full-disclosure, I am a member of the county planning board and the comments above are on behalf of CCE and myself as a private citizen.