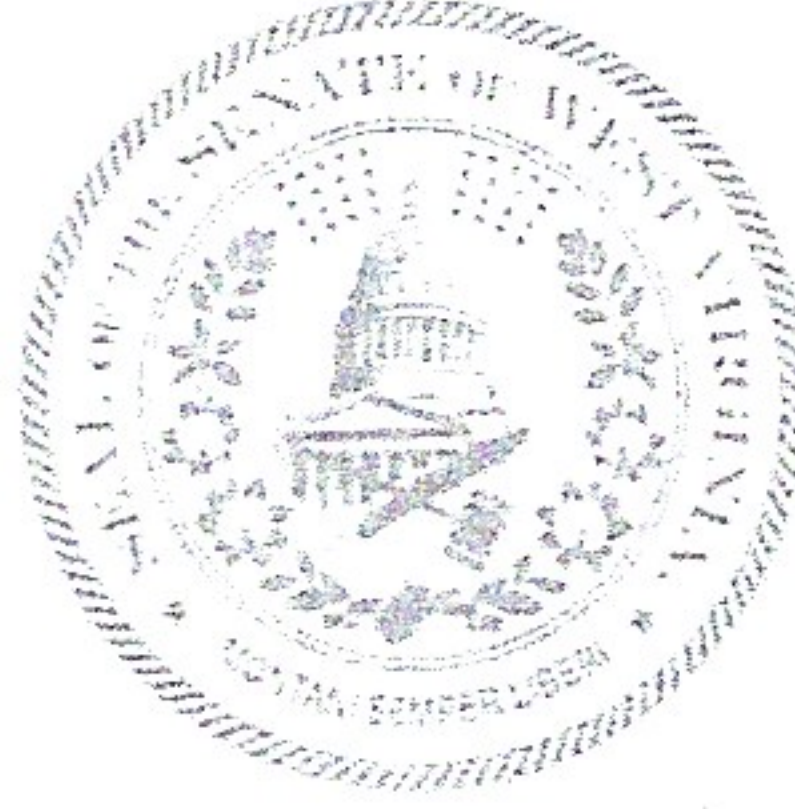


The Senate of West Virginia
Charleston

DARREN J. THORNE
STATE SENATOR
15TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



STATE CAPITOL, ROOM W-200
1900 KANAWHA BLVD. EAST
CHARLESTON, WV 25305-0800
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May 28, 2025

Public Service Commission of West Virginia
201 Brooks Street Charleston, WV 25301

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my opposition proposed development of large-scale solar projects, industrial wind turbines, and current transmission infrastructure proposals in Senate District 15.

As a resident and representative of this region, I have deep concerns regarding the impact these projects may have on our rural communities, property values, environmental integrity, and overall quality of life. While I recognize the importance of energy innovation and diversification, these specific project types being proposed in our district raise several red flags:

1. **Land Use and Aesthetic Disruption:** The construction of vast solar arrays and wind turbines threatens to permanently alter the rural and scenic character of our land. These industrial-scale installations are incompatible with the agricultural and residential nature of our communities.
2. **Local Control and Transparency:** Many of these projects are being pursued by out-of-state developers with minimal public input. The siting of transmission lines across private property often proceeds without adequate community consultation or fair compensation.
3. **Environmental and Ecological Impact:** Contrary to public perception, solar and wind developments are not without consequences. Large land clearings, noise pollution, and the threat to local wildlife—including bats, birds, and aquatic ecosystems—demand far more scrutiny.
4. **Grid Reliability and Economic Return:** The intermittent nature of solar and wind energy creates dependency on fossil fuel backup systems, while the economic benefits to our district are limited. These projects often fail to deliver meaningful long-term employment or tax revenue to the communities they disrupt.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully urge the Public Service Commission to:

- Deny or delay the approval of proposed renewable energy and transmission projects in Senate District 15;
- Require full and transparent public hearings before any siting decisions are made;
- Consider alternative approaches that preserve our land, protect our citizens, and ensure reliable, affordable energy.

I urge you to stand with the people of District 15 in protecting our land, our values, and our voice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Darren J. Thorne", is written over a horizontal line.

DARREN.THORNE@WVSENATE.GOV