**UNREGULATED SOLAR PROJECTS THREATEN OUR LAND AND OUR STATE**

The state of Texas is seeing an increase in renewable energy projects around the state and while there is a need for diversifying energy sources to meet the need of our growing population, there are some immediate concerns to the large-scale projects being proposed. Proposed Industrial sites around the state ranch from 2,500 up to 10,000 acres. We don’t want solar projects being constructed without a process and not knowing the long-term effects – **YOUR SCHOOL BOARD HAS THE POWER TO STOP THEM.**

* There is not enough evidence to prove that solar projects are environmentally friendly, particularly due to the fact a solar project can harm the native landscape and wildlife habitat due to the nature of clearing and construction. Additionally, there are concerns of the heat island generated on the property and the surrounding area, the water runoff during inclement weather, and the possible toxins emitted from the panels.
* Properties that host solar projects will be devalued in addition to the devaluation of neighboring properties, especially if the project as a large footprint.
* Industrial solar is not economically viable without taxpayers carrying the burden. The taxpayer subsidy is the only way these projects would exist as they are not profitable on their own.
* Renewables have proven to be less efficient as natural gas with a much larger footprint.
* There is no regulation process to install industrial solar projects and we advocate that sound policy be put in place before rolling out solar initiatives in the state. The Texas legislature can address the potential policies that insure environmental and economic impact studies are included in the permitting process.
* Currently there are only two permits that are required for a solar project 1) a stormwater pollution prevention plan required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and 2) and a stormwater permit that is required by Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ).
* Runoff into pristine rivers and streams causes a threat to the water sources and the species that live in the waters.
* Lack of regulation and minimal permitting makes potential remediation and decommissioning impossible to project with no protection from or consequences to bad actors.

**TAKE ACTION TODAY – CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND HAVE THEM VOTE NO ON THE 313 TAX ABATEMENT!**