

Proposed Resolution #J
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Erik Schnelle, State Advisory Council President, NDA
Proposed: December 3, 2022 Conservation Policy Board Meeting
Title: Green Solar Energy on Private Lands

1. **WHEREAS:** Increasingly, large scale solar energy production sites are in our future here in
2. Michigan; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** There is growing pressure to buy, or lease privately held forests and agricultural
4. property for large scale solar farms; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** Solar farms are often biological deserts covered with frequently mowed non-native
6. grass of little value to wildlife, even essential pollinating insects; and, are
7. fenced off in a manner restricting natural wildlife movement over long distances; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** Where these solar farms will be located, and how they are built and maintained is
9. of importance to all who use, live near and recreate on our Michigan's private lands because
10. these farms will eliminate wildlife habitat, displace wildlife, and reduce or eliminate recreational
11. use of those lands; and have major impacts on adjoining public and private lands; and,
12. **WHEREAS:** It may not be a good carbon trade off to cut down a forest, bulldoze a prairie,
13. eliminate current CRP lands, or other wildlife habitat to build solar farms; and,
14. **WHEREAS:** there are large paved areas, brownfield sites, large manufacturing, distribution and
15. government facilities and other areas of little or no current ecological value that could add solar
16. farms with little or no negative impact; and,
17. **WHEREAS:** With changes in zoning and design solar farms could be truly greener with reduced
18. damage to existing wildlife habitat, less mowing, more native plants, more
19. wildlife habitat, reduced use of paving, fewer toxic materials, and minimal restriction of natural
20. wildlife movement; NOW,
21. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That MUCC work with the State of Michigan and affiliated
22. agencies, Michigan State University, the Michigan Legislature, and other stakeholder groups to
23. develop and implement improved solar zoning, site recommendations, land-owner education
24. and legislation to ensure that implement solar projects that are truly beneficial to Michigan's
25. natural resources.