

From: Kathleen Merino [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 March 2023 16:05
To: Section 62A Applications <section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Objection to Solar Farm on Land East of Pelham substation, Maggots End Manuden - Application number: S62A/2022/0011

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to object to the application to construct a solar farm comprising ground mounted solar arrays together with (among other things) battery storage, inverter cabins, a substation, fencing and CCTV cameras on land near Pelham Substation Maggots End Road Manuden CM23 1BJ

My name is Kathleen Merino and I live at [REDACTED]

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

The solar industry with its constant drive to build solar farms on agricultural land is presenting a threat to food security.

The war in Ukraine has shown us that we are too dependent as a country on food supplies from other countries. Traditionally, Essex has been an excellent area for the cultivation of cereals, particularly wheat and barley.

I believe that we are facing an imminent problem of lack of food security and shortages. **We think that we live in a rich country and therefore can just buy whatever food we need from other countries, but recent shortage problems have demonstrated that, when food supplies are scarce, other countries are unwilling to sell us their precious foodstuffs.** In the United Kingdom we need to be more self-sufficient in terms of growing our own food supplies.

The Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, said in August 2022: "On my watch, we will not lose swathes of our best farmland to solar farms. Instead, we should be making sure that solar panels are installed on commercial buildings, on sheds and on properties."

It is vital that the opinions of the people from communities around the area are taken into consideration. Please listen to the comments of local people like me and decide to reject this planning application which is not in the best interests of wider society.

Yours faithfully,

Kathleen Merino