

HUNTINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Commissioners Authorize Solar Moratorium for Huntington County

HUNTINGTON, IN (July 1, 2024) – After careful consideration of the potential drawbacks and benefits to the residents of Huntington County, the Huntington County Commissioners will allow a solar moratorium to take effect. The decision affects rural and unincorporated areas of Huntington County.

The moratorium on Solar Energy Systems will extend into 2025 to grant additional time to review the potential impacts of large-scale solar projects. Adopted language defines Solar Energy Systems as "any free-standing solar arrays that have a combined nameplate power rated capacity of more than 20kW of peak generating capacity."

According to Huntington County Commission President Tom Wall, a solar review panel of five members will be assembled. The panel will propose sensible regulations that are designed to serve the best interests of all Huntington County residents, ensuring their well-being is a top priority. It will consist of two solar opponents and two solar proponents to represent both sides, plus a neutral party.

"We have listened to the comments and concerns from both sides of the solar issue, and both are equally passionate about their cause," Wall said. "The solar moratorium will allow us the time needed to continue a careful review of solar's impact on Huntington County and the people who live here."

In order to give citizens the opportunity to provide input, the Huntington County Commissioners passed Resolution <u>#2024-06</u> (www.huntington.in.us/egov/documents/1714572634_11576.pdf) on April 29 directing the Huntington County Plan Commission to consider and recommend a text amendment to Huntington County's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Following public meetings on April 29, May 14 and June 12, the Plan Commission recommended several changes, which can be found at www.huntington.in.us/egov/documents/1719515569_52557.pdf.