



**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A ONE YEAR MORATORIUM ON APPROVAL OF LARGE SCALE SOLAR FARMS OF 50 ACRES OR LARGER**

**WHEREAS**, The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) recently approved the county's second large scale commercial solar farm; and

**WHEREAS**, there were many questions and concerns expressed during the zoning process as to the potential negative impacts of this solar farm on the environment and other aspects of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the questions posed to the solar farm developers by the BOCC were answered but with general answers that were inconclusive as to the actual negative environmental impacts that might be caused by the large-scale solar farm; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a major concern with tying up large areas of rural agricultural land for the decades to accommodate a commercial solar farm; and

**WHEREAS**, there are concerns with ruining the natural scenic beauty of Stokes County; and

**WHEREAS**, it's very difficult to quantify the benefits that would be afforded a county other than the individual property owners by a large-scale solar farm when no such facilities have been located in the county; and

**WHEREAS**, a commission has been appointed to develop a set of state standards for commercial solar farms in North Carolina and that report is not due for two years;

**WHEREAS**, a one year time period is needed for the Stokes County Planning Board to study the positive and negative impacts of large scale commercial solar farms; and to develop standards for said solar farms;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that effective upon approval of this resolution the Stokes County BOCC hereby imposes a one year moratorium on the approval of any new large scale commercial solar farms of 50 acres or larger within the boundaries of Stokes County until the Stokes County Planning Board can develop regulations; but not including the areas under the jurisdiction of the City of King, and Towns of Walnut Cove and Danbury;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** The Stokes County Government will utilize all legal means necessary to enforce this moratorium until evidence and experience can be gained as to the actual impacts, positive and negative, of large-scale commercial solar farms and their impact on a scenic rural agricultural based county like Stokes County, N.C.

Adopted the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

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**Andy Nickelston- Chairman**

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**Ronnie Mendenhall – Vice Chairman**

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**Ernest Lankford- Commissioner**

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**Rick Morris – Commissioner**

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jimmy Walker- Commissioner**

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**Shannon Shaver – Clerk to the Board**