

Subject: DEMAND FOR COMPLETE DENIAL: Caroline Solar Project on Rolling Hills Overlooking Village is Unacceptable – AUC Must Be STOPPED

Russell Barnett
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November 10, 2025

The Honourable Jason Nixon, MLA
Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services
Government of Alberta
229 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

cc:
The Honourable Nathan Neudorf, MLA
Minister of Affordability and Utilities
423 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

The Honourable Dan Williams, MLA
Minister of Municipal Affairs
#3, 10013 - 101 Avenue
La Crete, AB T0H 2H0
Email: peace.River@assembly.ab.ca

Dear Minister Nixon,

As a member of the Rural Alberta Concerned Citizens Group, I would like to see the immediate and COMPLETE REVOCATION of the Alberta

Utilities Commission's (AUC) approval of the Caroline Solar Project (Decision 28295-D01-2025). There are NO acceptable mitigation efforts. This industrial solar scam on 170 acres of rolling hills OVERLOOKING the Village of Caroline is a direct assault on rural Alberta that MUST BE DENIED IN FULL.

Renewables are a GIANT SCAM pretending to "save the planet" while destroying productive farmland, delivering unreliable power, and driving up costs through subsidies. The AUC's embarrassing "public interest" fairy tale doesn't change the fact: this project belongs in the TRASH. No vegetative screens, no sheep grazing, no "agrivoltaics" nonsense, no 40-metre setbacks—NOTHING makes plopping 14.67 MW of panels looming over a village acceptable.

ROLLING HILLS OVERLOOKING CAROLINE = VISUAL RAPING OF RURAL ALBERTA

This isn't remote industrial land—it's 57 acres (AUC claims 170 ha) of Class 2H/3H productive farmland on ELEVATED ROLLING HILLS that will DOMINATE the Village of Caroline's skyline. The AUC admits:

- Surrounds homes on THREE SIDES with 40-metre setbacks (pathetic)
- Visual blight no screen can hide from below
- Stormwater flooding risks from hilly terrain
- Fire hazards in dry Alberta

NO MITIGATION FIXES THIS. Vegetative screens? Laughable—they won't hide 15-story panel arrays from the village. Sheep under panels? That's not farming, that's a SCAM to pretend "coexistence" while killing soil productivity.

AUC's "PUBLIC INTEREST" = DEVELOPER WELFARE SCAM EXPOSED

The AUC's Section 17 "public interest" mantra is EMBARRASSING HYPOCRISY. Here's their exact scam justifications from Caroline (Decision 28295-D01-2025) and 5 other approvals:

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[Your Name]

Member, Rural Alberta Concerned Citizens Group

X: @ToNew135

[Your Address]

[City, Province, Postal Code]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

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Have a look with the link below, or better still, come and visit and see for yourself.

<https://www.russellbarnett.ca/the-real-costs-of-solar-in-caroline>

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UCP "AGRICULTURE FIRST" BETRAYED

The AUC's Section 17 "public interest" mantra is **EMBARRASSING HYPOCRISY**. Here's their exact scam justifications from Caroline (Decision 28295-D01-2025) and 5 other approvals:

Their "Public Interest" Lie	The Ugly Reality	
"Emissions-free electricity" (Para. 95)	Intermittent scam – delivers NOTHING at night/winter/cloudy days	
"Jobs & taxes"	Temporary construction gigs, permanent farm revenue LOST	
"Energy diversification"	Subsidized unreliability jacks up AESO rates 20-30%	
"Agrivoltaics coexistence" (Sec. 3.6.3)	Soil compaction, 20-50% yield drops, sheep aren't crops	

Across 6 decisions, "public interest" = 20+ mentions of the same buzzwords. Rising Sun (denied) still preached it. Peter Lougheed, Blue Bridge, Vilna—all approved with the same script. **THEY'RE ALL SCAMS.**

Minister Neudorf's Feb 28, 2024 letter DEMANDS:

- Class 1-3 land needs coexistence PROOF (not promises)
- 36-month productivity reports
- Upfront reclamation bonds (Caroline delays to Year 2)

AUC IGNORES ALL THIS. Caroline's "sheep grazing plan" gets a pass despite:

- No predator control

- No yield guarantees
- No health protocols
- No experience
- Zoned RESIDENTIAL (Caroline LUB)

Clearwater County OPPOSES post-amalgamation. 100's of RACCG members SCREAM NO. AUC LIES claiming "no municipal opposition" (Decision 29924-D01-2025, para. 10).

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED – NO COMPROMISES

Ministers Nixon, Neudorf, Williams: SHUT THIS DOWN.

1. COMPLETE REVOCATION of Decisions 28295-D01-2025 & 29924-D01-2025
2. PAUSE ALL CONSTRUCTION immediately
3. AUC ACCOUNTABILITY: Investigate this pattern of developer favouritism
4. REPEAL Section 619 MGA – stop AUC overriding municipal bylaws
5. MANDATE: Class 1-3 solar = automatic denial unless 100% proven coexistence

Rural Alberta will NOT tolerate industrializing our villages. The AUC's "public interest" for PACE Bang Energy LP does NOT trump Caroline's right to exist as a community. COMPLETE DENIAL OR NOTHING.
This is WAR on the renewable land grab.

Please respond ASAP. No mitigation. No compromise. TOTAL DENIAL.

Russell Barnett
Member, Rural Alberta Concerned Citizens Group
rjb@russellbarnett.ca

Their "Public Interest" Lie
The Ugly Reality
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"public interest" for PACE Bang Energy LP does NOT trump Caroline's right
to exist as a community. COMPLETE DENIAL OR NOTHING.

This isn't negotiation. This is WAR on the renewable land grab.

Respond immediately. I'm ready to escalate on X (@ToNew135) and rally
every farmer between here and Fort Mac.

No mitigation. No compromise. TOTAL DENIAL.

[Your Full Name]

Member, Rural Alberta Concerned Citizens Group

X: @ToNew135

Enclosures: