A Resolution on the Delaware County Moratorium on Utility-Scale Solar Projects

Adopted
September 18, 2023

WHEREAS, Ball State University works to advance its legacy of environmental stewardship to achieve a more vibrant and livable campus for its students, employees, neighbors and community partners; and

WHEREAS, the Ball State University Council on the Environment membership represents the university and the surrounding Muncie community; and

WHEREAS, Ball State University’s strategic plan for sustainability -- “2019-2024 Destination 2040: Our Flight Path” -- includes implementing a regional plan with community partners to improve population health and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, a transition from carbon-based energy systems to utility-scale solar projects can play a major role in the public health and wellbeing of the residents and ecosystems of Delaware County as well as the nationwide emission reduction goals set by the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the university document entitled Understanding the Issuance of Public Statements at Ball State University dated 03-30-21. Section III and IV makes note that:

Individuals, committees, units, departments, colleges, and university divisions are not authorized to issue institutional statements on behalf of Ball State University, or any constituent component a Ball State University.

Nonetheless…
When an issue of university-wide impact or significant public interest arises, the President considers whether it is appropriate to issue an institutional statement. If deemed appropriate to do so, the President will issue the institutional statement, direct the Vice President for Marketing and Communications to issue the institutional statement, or will designate another University official to do so.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That:

President Mearns issue a public statement on behalf of BSU in support of:

a. Lifting of the moratorium on utility-scale solar projects in Delaware County; and

b. Removal of a property value guarantee in any utility-scale solar ordinance because that would thwart investment in utility-scale solar projects and the resulting economic development in East Central Indiana.