

August 6, 2024

Oregon Department of Energy
550 Capitol St. NE, 1st Floor
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Public Comment on Sunstone Solar Project (FKA Echo Solar Project)

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Boardman, Oregon wishes to express our support for the proposed Sunstone Solar Project developed by Pine Gate Renewables. As City officials in one of the fastest growing communities in Oregon, we know the importance of investing in clean energy initiatives like this solar project for the economic and environmental prosperity of our region and state. Boardman and Eastern Oregon are becoming a hub for these innovative energy projects as we continue to attract economic investment from businesses that demand access to clean energy.

The multiyear construction of this project will result in robust employment and positive downstream economic benefits to local and regional businesses. The long-term operation of the asset will generate significant, stable tax revenue for Morrow County and additional employment opportunities to support operations and maintenance needs.

Sunstone Solar's strategic location presents a unique opportunity to advance Oregon and Morrow County's clean energy goals. The project will utilize existing transmission infrastructure and is located within a state-designated Critical Groundwater Area.

The Pine Gate Renewables team developing the Sunstone Solar team has already been a thoughtful partner in Boardman's civic groups and initiatives, especially those initiatives focused on finding solutions to providing for both long and short-term housing. We are confident Pine Gate Renewables will continue to play an important and constructive role in our community for many years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on and express our support for the Sunstone Solar project.

Sincerely,

Paul Keefer
Mayor, City of Boardman