



Paul Noursi – Co-chair

Nancy Wein – Co-chair

**Participating Organizations**

Alliance of Baptists

American Muslims for Palestine

Appalachian Peace Education Center

Arab American Association of Central Virginia

Defenders for Freedom, Justice, and Equality

Israel Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church - USA

Jewish Voice for Peace

National Arab American Women's Association

New Dominion PAC

Northern Virginians for Peace & Justice

Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace

Plowshares Peace & Justice Center

Richmonders for Peace in Israel-Palestine

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, Northern Virginia Chapter

United Methodists for Kairos Response

US Campaign for Palestinian Rights

Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace

October 6, 2020

Board of Directors  
c/o Devin Stockfish  
President and CEO  
Weyerhaeuser  
220 Occidental Ave South  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mr. Stockfish,

On behalf of the Virginia Coalition for Human Rights (VCHR), a coalition of 17 organizations and over 10,000 Virginians, we write to urge Weyerhaeuser NOT to conduct business with Caden Energix Gladys LLC to build a 60 megawatt solar array on two Weyerhaeuser-owned parcels totaling 1,108 acres on Gladys Road, approximately 4.5 miles SW of Gladys, VA. Lat: 37.1366°; Long: -79.1329°.

It is our opinion that Caden Energix, with three solar arrays already constructed in the Commonwealth of Virginia, has inflicted harm on surrounding communities and has engaged in questionable business practices with county officials. Here are five examples of such conduct.

In the city of Chesapeake, Caden Energix is constructing a solar array. On a visit to the construction site in April of this year, the following was observed: contractors and migrant workers with out-of-state license plates. Unmasked and crammed together 4-5 in trucks, they were in violation of Governor Northam's COVID directive. We are particularly concerned because the Governor had later declared that area (Hampton Roads) a hot spot of community spread and had disallowed a phased opening until the numbers of deaths went down. We wonder how Caden Energix will manage the proposed construction in Gladys, Virginia.

In the county of Prince George, Caden Energix built the Rives Road solar facility. During a March meeting this year, over a dozen residents complained to the Board of Supervisors saying that Caden Energix completely reneged on a plan by eliminating a 50-foot buffer of trees. Sherry O'Dett said "That natural barrier that they talked about; it's gone. Most of the trees are gone. I'm not against solar, but I am upset that Caden Energix created a huge problem for my property value. I bought this property because of where it was located. You have totally destroyed the neighborhood."

Two supervisors from Prince George also shared their disappointment with Caden Energix—including board chair Donald Hunter who said, "I have to agree with what a lot of

people have said tonight about the unsightliness. I heard those panels were supposed to go way off the road. It's sad that Caden Energix Rives Road is the first one that we did. It makes you very hesitant about the solar farms and what they have to offer."

In the county of Rockingham, on September 9, 2020, the Board of Supervisors tabled the permitting process for Caden Energix because of need for further investigation. Chairman Bill Kyger also stated that if the vote were to be permitted that night he would vote "No."

In the counties of Appomattox, Henry, Nelson, and Pittsylvania, Caden Energix coaxed (or is attempting to win) sweetheart deals to rezone farmland for solar utilities and subsidies from Virginia state officials. In Chesapeake, Caden Energix set up a questionable \$50,000 fund for vague city initiatives. And, in Campbell County, the county attorney pushed back against Caden Energix's offer of \$50K for affordable housing stating that it would "not be legal".

In addition to regional concerns caused by Caden Energix, it is our opinion that there are legal and reputational risks in associating with them. In order to understand VCHR's objection to conducting business with Caden Energy Gladys LLC operations, you should know that it is an LLC incorporated under Energix Renewable Energies, Ltd., an Israel-based company that has been cited numerous times for its violations of human rights in occupied Palestine (West Bank) and in the occupied Syria (Golan Heights). Three reports detailing these violations are listed below.

1. On February 12, 2020, the United Nations Human Rights Council designated Energix Renewable Energies, Ltd. as a Category G company operating in Israeli occupied territories and stated that the company's activities "raised particular human rights concerns."<sup>i</sup>
2. In January of 2017, the organization Who Profits referred to Article 55 of the Hague Regulations and cited Energix Renewable Energies, Ltd. for a variety of violations, including the following: Illegally seizing 98,749 square meters of Palestinian land to build its Meitarim Solar Field in the West Bank; and illegally operating a 155-MW wind turbine facility in the Golan Heights.<sup>ii</sup>
3. On June 25, 2019, the American Friends Service Committee warned that Energix Renewable Energy Ltd. owns a commercial solar farm located in the Meitarim illegal settlement in the West Bank. Energix has also developed a wind energy project in the Golan Heights, reportedly using questionable methods in obtaining access to the land from its indigenous Syrian-Druze owners, and in violation of international law.<sup>iii</sup>

In addition to Energix's violations of international law, we believe that the operation of Caden Energix Gladys LLC would create questions of compliance with U.S. federal law. For example, when Caden Energix Gladys LLC begins transmitting revenues through its corporate entities to its parent company, the operation will, in effect, be financing enterprises whose operations harm territories and peoples with whom the United States is at peace.<sup>iv</sup> There is already litigation between Energix Renewable Energies Ltd. and residents of the Golan Heights<sup>v</sup>, and other potential legal battles are anticipated.

In sum, because there are risks of associating with Energix Renewable Energies, and because they and applicant Caden Energix Gladys LLC have actively concealed their complicity in human rights violations, we believe that Weyerhaeuser should not conduct

business with them. VCHR asks that Weyerhaeuser immediately rescind their May 6, 2019 letter written to Caden Energix by Anthony Chavez, Senior Manager, Weyerhaeuser Renewable Energy, that authorizes them to file a Special Use Permit application and to construct a solar facility on Weyerhaeuser-owned land parcels 72-A-36 (649 acres) and 72-10-9 (459 acres).

As a publicly traded company listed on the New York Stock Exchange, Weyerhaeuser has a responsibility to shareholders to engage in due diligence with its partners. Furthermore, as Weyerhaeuser has been listed as among the world's most ethical companies and, as integrity is considered one of its core values, VCHR asks you to terminate your business relationship with Caden Energix immediately. There are many upstanding Virginia and American companies that should be given these important green energy development opportunities.

Over 450 petitioners from around the world agree with us. Please see [www.EjectEnergix.org](http://www.EjectEnergix.org) for their names and places of residency.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Noursi, Co-chair

Nancy Wein, Co-chair

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<sup>i</sup> “Database of all business enterprises involved in the activities detailed in paragraph 96 of the Independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,” February 12, 2020, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1475002?ln=en>

<sup>ii</sup> “Greenwashing the Occupation: The Solar Energy Industry and the Israeli Occupation”, January 2017, Who Profits, [https://whoprofits.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/old/greenwashing\\_the\\_occupation\\_web.pdf](https://whoprofits.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/old/greenwashing_the_occupation_web.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> “Alony-Hetz Properties and Investments Ltd: An Israeli investment firm. Its subsidiary Energix Renewable Energy has projects in the occupied West Bank and Golan Heights. Its subsidiary Amot Investments owns an industrial building in the occupied West Bank.” June 25, 2019, American Friends Service Committee, <https://investigate.afsc.org/company/alony-hetz>

<sup>iv</sup> Under 18 U.S. Code § 960. Expedition against friendly nation. <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/960>

<sup>v</sup> Clean energy, dirty dealing: Syrian Druze resist greenwashing of Golan occupation, February 6, 2020, +972 Magazine, <https://www.972mag.com/syrian-druze-golan-heights-greenwashing/>