



May 26, 2020

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

Dear Campbell County Officials,

On behalf of the Virginia Coalition for Human Rights (VCHR), a coalition of 17 organizations and over 10,000 Virginians, we write to strongly urge you NOT to allow Caden Energix Gladys LLC to build a 60 megawatt solar array on 2 parcels totaling 1,108 acres on Gladys Road, approximately 4.5 miles SW of Gladys, VA. Lat: 37.1366°; Long: -79.1329°.

Please note that this project is one of 12 solar arrays being promoted in the Commonwealth by the owners of Caden Energix to which VCHR objects. They are located in the cities of Chesapeake and Harrisonburg as well as in the counties of Appomattox, Greensville, Henry, Nelson, Pittsylvania, Prince George, Rockingham, Sussex, and Wytheville.

In order to understand VCHR's objection to approval of 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 addition to violations of federal law, there are additional potential adverse impacts and risks of conducting business with Energix. These risks include but are not limited to the following:

1. Potential violations of 18 U.S. Code § 960. Will the company also flout other U.S. laws and legal obligations? Will the Campbell County project be a repeat of what happened in Prince George County in 2017 when the Caden Energix Rives Road facility “completely reneged on a construction plan it presented to residents and eliminated a promised 50-foot buffer before finishing the project”?<sup>vi</sup>
2. Potential liabilities from victim litigation that could impair Caden Energix Gladys LLC operations in Virginia, including liens on funds pledged to site remediation and/or its ability to make timely tax and other fee payments to Campbell County.
3. Potential negative impacts to the public image of Campbell County over the proposed multi-decade relationship with the company.

In sum, because there is a legal and reputational risk of associating with Energix Renewable Energies, and because Energix and applicant Caden Energix Gladys LLC have actively concealed their complicity in human rights violations, we believe that Campbell County should not allow them to build or operate solar energy arrays within their jurisdiction. There are many upstanding Virginia and American companies that should be given these important green energy development opportunities.

We would like this letter entered into the record during the public comment period. We also urge you to enter the names of Virginians, other Americans, and concerned petitioners from around the world that is compiled at [www.EjectEnergix.org](http://www.EjectEnergix.org). Please confirm receipt of this letter and entry into the record.

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/>

<sup>vi</sup> Residents not sunny over solar-pl ant plans”, March 11, 2020, The Progress-Index, <https://www.progressindex.com/news/20200311/residents-not-sunny-over-solar-plant-plans>