From: Scott Hardin-Nieri
To: Public Comments
Subject: Faith, Solar, and Buncombe County
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 5:31:32 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to invite you to vote yes on the proposal to install solar panels on 40 sites in Buncombe County. As a pastor in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) I have the opportunity to accompany Christians as they seek to pass on faith and a better world to future generations. You all do this work in countless ways regardless of your faith background. You are constantly making decisions that impact many people not only living in our county now but will be living here in the years to come. Thank you for your tireless work. I believe a yes vote on this solar project will be a wise use of financial resources, will offer an example to business, non-profits, and congregations regarding renewable energy and will make a generational impact by caring for God's creation. I was reminded of generational impact near the Appalachian Trail last week.

On Friday I spent the day with Mountaintrue staff treating Ash trees close to the Appalachian Trail. I am no expert in this forestry endeavor or in the art of multigenerational thinking but I can tell you that the work protecting these amazing trees included sweat laden shirts, gnat clouded eyes, and legs itchy from stinging nettles. I was a bit disappointed that we were only able to treat 16 trees that day with so many in need. As we were almost done with our day's work a walking stick grasping gentleman about the age of my father interrupted his hike to make note of our labors.
"You helping those trees?" he asked
"Yes," one of the experts declared as she then explained a bit about the process to slow the destruction caused to these trees by the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle. The hiker responded with glee. "Your work will impact generations…generations!" His words echoed along the path as he strode off. I had lost sight of the big picture, mired in the details, I had missed the intergenerational impact that our little team might have on the future of Western North Carolina forests.

On Tuesday the Buncombe County Commissioners have an opportunity to make a generational difference. A yes vote on this solar proposal is wise stewardship of county finances and God's good creation.

Your work will indeed impact generations.
Thank you for your work,

Peace and Grace,
Scott

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The Creation Care Alliance is a program of Mountaintrue.