



MARQUETTE COUNTY
**CLIMATE ADAPTATION
TASK FORCE**

December 22, 2022

Hon. Dan Scripps, Chair
Michigan Public Service Commission
7109 East Saginaw Highway
Lansing, MI 48917
CC: Lynn Beck, MPSC Grants Administrator

RE: Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure Enhancement and Development Grant

Dear Commissioner Scripps and Lynn Beck,

The Marquette County Climate Adaptation Task Force (CATF) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Superior Solar Project's proposal to the Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure Enhancement and Development Grant!

CATF received a presentation from the Superior Solar Project (SSP) (www.superiorsolarproject.com) in 2020. CATF is in support of the project and has encouraged Sands Township and local utilities to help bring the 150 MW Superior Solar Project into reality. The SSP has issued public notices, inviting citizens to in-person and virtual Open Houses, extensive engagement with citizens and stakeholder groups in the planning stages. The SSP has recorded its 2000+ acre Solar Option and Lease.

The Sands Township Planning Commission & Board of Trustees:

- Properly noticed & convened Public Hearings were in compliance with MI Covid Orders and the Open Meetings Act,
- The Township Planning Commission and Board unanimously approved a Solar Systems Zoning Ordinance, after consulting with the Marquette County Planning Commission,
- The Sands Township Planning Commission examined the extensive SSP Special Use Permit (SUP) application, convened a Dec 2020 hearing and approved SUP No. 2020-06,
- In 2022, Sands Township approved SSP SUP 2020-06 as vested when the SSP invested in and installed a Solar Meteorological Station on Cleveland Cliffs property.

A \$20 M MPSC Superior Solar Low Carbon Pilot Project (SS LCPP) will meet the \$200 M match as the SS LCPP invests in over 225,000 solar panels, upgrades the ATC/MISO grid – lowering carbon across the region – while creating 200 union construction jobs.

The SS LCPP will help achieve the vision and goals set by the UP Energy Task Force and:

1. Generate affordable and reliable energy security with a leveled cost of energy 2024-2054+ for over 30,000 Upper Peninsula homes.



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2. Intentionally achieve the stated Climate Goals set by:
 - a. The Marquette County Climate Adaptation Task Force mission statement, goals and annual work plans (<https://superiorwatersheds.org/catf>),
 - b. Governor Whitmer's MI Healthy Climate Plan,
 - c. Cliffs Climate Pledge (<https://www.clevelandcliffs.com/sustainability/environment/climate-change-commitment>), and
 - d. The MPSC's 3-0 approval of May 2022 UMERC-Superior Solar Settlement in UMERC's IRP Case U-21081

Please do not hesitate to reach out at 906-225-8196 or eleach@mqtco.org.

Sincerely,

Emily Leach, CATF Chairperson
Senior Planner, Marquette County

CC: Lynn Beck, MPSC Grant Administrator