



December 19, 2023

Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors
14010 Boydton Plank Road
Dinwiddie, VA 23841

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of the American Battlefield Trust, a national nonprofit organization with a long history of working collaboratively with Dinwiddie County.

Over the last several years, the Trust has tracked the proposals to develop a solar energy facility in Dinwiddie County brought forward by Energix. At the outset, we had concerns about the project's proximity to the Reams Station Battlefield, the site of two battles of the American Civil War as recognized by Congress through the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. It is our mission to safeguard such historic landscapes and pass them on to future generations so that they may understand what happened there and why it continues to matter in our modern society.

The Trust understands the need to balance economic development and historic preservation. We are against development that unduly impacts our historic land when more sensitive alternatives can be found and strive to work with developers to find mutually agreeable "win-win" solutions that protect the past and lay groundwork for a promising future. In the case of Lily Pond Solar, we have found Energix to be very willing to come to the table, discuss and, ultimately, put in place a reasonable agreement to protect historic landscapes.

Energix has agreed to avoid building any of the structures of its solar facility on the core area of the Reams Station Battlefield and further, to place a permanent conservation easement on 61.4 sensitive acres to create an appropriate buffer. Most significantly, Energix will donate 27.45 acres outright to the American Battlefield Trust so that we can ensure its permanent protection. This parcel is entirely within the core area of the battlefield and is adjacent to the properties that the American Battlefield Trust already owns at the site, enabling the Trust to better interpret the Battle of Reams Station. Throughout this process, we have found Energix to be a true partner and we support your approval of this project.

Sincerely,

Maxwell Hokit

Max Hokit – State and Local Government Affairs Associate
American Battlefield Trust