

TEXAS ELECTED OFFICIALS HEAR CITIZEN CONCERNS OVER FOREIGN-OWNED FIRM'S

MASSIVE SOLAR/BESS SITE NEAR HISTORIC FREDERICKSBURG

Gillespie County Citizens Cite Urgency as Construction Looms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Dec., 17, 2025

Gillespie Co., TX – Concerned citizens of Gillespie County held an information meeting with senior representatives of federal, state, county, and city elected officials to update them on the environmental concerns of a 1,100 acre solar panel/battery energy storage system (BESS) proposed at Marshall Springs by AMPYR ENERGY USA – an Indonesian energy investment company with no history of a completed project in Texas or the U.S.

Those in attendance at today's meeting included **state legislative aids** representing U.S. Senator John Cornyn, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, U.S. Representative Chip Roy, Texas Senator Pete Flores, and Texas Representative Ellen Troxclair. Also in attendance were **Gillespie County Judge Daniel Jones, County Commissioner Don Weinheimer**, Pct. 4., and Fredericksburg **Mayor Pro Tem Emily Kirchner**. They met privately with Gillespie County residents, many of whom have homes and ranches near the proposed AMPYR solar/BESS site.

County **Judge Jones** stated that **Gillespie County** remains committed to responsible development that does not compromise the safety of its citizens, first responders, or essential water resources. Jones added that the BESS project at **Rogers Draw in Harper** (a BESS site near a school) will be given priority due to its timetable. Action on the **Marshall Springs** project near Fredericksburg states that the county has ordered that no development activity — including even vegetative clearing — can commence until permit issues regarding floodwater and fire codes are cleared. Gillespie County Commissioners passed a resolution Nov. 3 opposing Solar and BESS projects.

Senator Roy's office issued a letter to AMPYR on December 1 and requested details of its proposed operation including all the potential impacts of it on this fragile agricultural environment. AMPYR's application indicates it needs no permits and plans to begin work at the site in January 2026.

Historic Gillespie County is the fourth wealthiest county in Texas and is highly dependent on its agriculture and environmental tourism. It is among the top five largest viticultural regions in the country. It is home to more than 50 wineries, abundant peach orchards, Enchanted Rock State Park, the National Museum of the Pacific War, and is among the most populous counties for white tailed deer, a draw for Texas hunters. It is recognized by ***Texas Monthly*** magazine as the

new “Aspen” of Texas. Nearly 2 million tourists visit the town annually, which features an abundance of historically preserved buildings on Main Street.

Angela Enright, a **resident of Boot Ranch**, who spent 25 years of her career promoting Texas tourism, said, “An industrial-sized project like this could be devastating to tourism in this county. It only takes one incident to forever taint the reputation of a national jewel like Fredericksburg, which is located just a few miles south of this site.” Enright continued, “I’m personally invested here with my home, my work, my friends, and my family. As a 6th generation Texan, I find it egregious that a foreign company has so much latitude over any of our vulnerable rural counties.”

John Love, a **resident of Country Creek**, which lies adjacent to the Marshall Springs site, expressed his concern. “This fragile agricultural site is in the same geographic line that this summer suffered through a catastrophic 10,000-acre wildfire.” He added, “There is certainly a place for this type of project, but to be dropped in the middle of our scenic county does not make sense.”

Key Concerns:

- Unsightly scene for tourism dependent Gillespie County – 2 million visitors per year.
- An impervious cap will eliminate all wildlife and flora and could create intense runoff during flash floods, which are common to the area.
- Potential for consistent noise and humming from the motors affixed to 257,700 solar panels.
- No real benefit to Gillespie County residents as energy stored will likely be sold on the spot market during high need periods when energy rates are highest.
- A likely breeding ground for the Golden Cheeked Warbler, a bird on the U.S. endangered species list which is specific to Central Texas and Gillespie Co.
- Close proximity to Gillespie County’s largest town with 12,500 plus residents.
- Investor developers may complete the construction, obtain tax credits, and then abandon the actual energy producing components.
- Many of the technology components including solar panels, batteries, and microchips are made in China which is a of high concern to the U.S. Military and the Texas Attorney General’s office.

The Marshall Springs Information Meeting concluded with each detailed strategies and further plans for residents moving forward in their fight task to oppose the AMPYR Solar/BESS project. For more information, visit www.FightFBGSolar.com or contact Angela Enright, Public Relations, AngelaEnrightPR@gmail.com. ###