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Consortium for
Energy, Economics and
the Environment
Building 22, The Ridges
1 Ohio University
Athens, OH 45701-2979

T: 740.593.2222
F: 740.593.4398

Chairman Todd A. Snitchler
The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

May 8, 2012

RE: In the Matter of the Long-Term Forecast Reports of Ohio Power Company and
Columbus Southern Power Company and Related Matters (PUCO Case Nos. 10-501-
EL-FOR and 10-502-EL-FOR)

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

I write in support of the Turning Point Solar (TPS) project which I have observed and defended since its inception more than two years ago. In that time project developers have endured significant economic and regulatory headwinds to make this dream a reality and I offer this letter in the hope that it will provide evidence of the broad base of support this project enjoys in southeastern Ohio.

Access to safe, reliable, and affordable energy has been the cornerstone of our state's economic wellbeing for more than a century and will be even more important into the future. Arguably the major factor in increasing our standard of living over this period of time is our access to cheap electricity. However, our overemphasis on non-renewable sources of electric generation places a disproportionately steep cost on the communities of southeastern Ohio. The impact to local community cohesiveness stemming from the boom and bust cycles that typify economies based upon resource extraction, the heavy environmental costs that have been borne by communities with improperly reclaimed coal mining, and the shared societal health and climatic burden that comes with the combustion of fossil fuels are not built in to our current utility rates.

With this past as prologue it is refreshing to hear of a clean source of electricity generation that will contribute to the local tax base and will create more than 100 jobs – for Ohioans – during each of the three phases of the project build out. This project will demonstrate to regional communities that there are alternative methods for serving their load profile. In addition it will put hundreds of acres of formerly useless reclaimed strip mine coal lands back into productive use and serve as a source of inspiration not only for the long-term residents of this region, but also for the current and future students at Ohio University.

There are many benefits of this project beyond American Electric Power's compliance obligations under SB221. Among these are: access to clean, safe and reliable electricity; load leveling; diversification of generation assets which will serve as a hedge against fuel price volatility; serving as a case study for rural Appalachian

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technician *[Signature]* Date Processed MAY 08 2012



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electrification; teaching, learning and research opportunities; advancing the growth of high-tech manufacturing.

Consortium for
Energy, Economics and
the Environment
Building 22, The Ridges
1 Ohio University
Athens, OH 45701-2972

T: 740 593.2122
F: 740 593.4198

The Voinovich School conducts many forms of research. Included in our current project portfolio is the development of a solar supply chain system. We are currently aware of more than one hundred thirty Ohio-based companies involved in the manufacture, distribution, design, assembly, operation and maintenance of solar components and systems. Among these companies is the Isofoton manufacturing facility in Napoleon, Ohio which is slated to supply the more than one quarter of a million panels it will take to complete the TPS project. Isofoton's plans to build this facility, coupled with the hundreds of jobs it will generate, are an example of the future of high-tech manufacturing in Ohio.

Given the enormous lead time it takes to conceive of, demonstrate, finance, permit, install, and operate new energy technologies, the time to begin the transition to cleaner methods of powering our lives is now. The Turning Point Solar project is an excellent example of a project that serves multiple needs for many stakeholders across the state and beyond. I strongly encourage you to approve this project and move Ohio towards a cleaner and more diverse energy future.

Please docket this letter in PUCO Case Nos.10-501-EL-FOR and 10-502-EL-FOR

Sincerely,

Scott Miller
Director,
Energy and Environmental Programs