

In The Matter of:
Icebreaker Windpower, Inc.

Transcript of Proceedings

July 19, 2018

PUCO Hearing

OHIO POWER SITING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
ICEBREAKER WINDPOWER, INC.
CASE NUMBER 16-1871-EL-BGN

- - - -

THURSDAY JULY 19, 2018

- - - -

Transcription of the proceedings of the Ohio
Power Siting Board public meeting taken before
me, the undersigned, Ivy J. Gantverg, RPR and
Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio,
taken at the Cleveland City Hall City Council
Chambers, 601 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio,
commencing at 6:00 p.m., the day and date above
set forth.

- - - -

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**Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018
PUCO Hearing**

2

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Susan Dempsey.

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018
PUCO Hearing

3

1 ALSO PRESENT:

2 Matt Butler
Grant Zeto
3 Stuart Siegfried
Jill Kocher
4 Brittany Waugaman
Ken Norris
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**Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018
PUCO Hearing**

4

1	WITNESS INDEX	
2	PAGE	
3	STATEMENT BY THOMAS C. SULLIVAN, JR.	14
	STATEMENT BY DAVID STRANE	30
4	STATEMENT BY SHERRI LANGE	38
	STATEMENT BY MATT ZONE	47
5	STATEMENT BY GARRY GEORGE	52
	STATEMENT BY DON BAUMAN	55
6	STATEMENT BY MARK SHIELDCASTLE	59
	STATEMENT BY JOHN LIPAJ	66
7	STATEMENT BY BRYAN RALSTON	74
	STATEMENT BY PAT HERSCH	78
8	STATEMENT BY CARL SCHEUTZOW	85
	STATEMENT BY LIZ McQUAID	89
9	STATEMENT BY PATRICK O'CONNOR	92
	STATEMENT BY JIM QUIGLEY	93
10	STATEMENT BY DAVID WADE	95
	STATEMENT BY ED OLIVEROS	99
11	STATEMENT BY DAN MOORE	102
	STATEMENT BY DAVID NADER	109
12	STATEMENT BY FRED HUNGER	111
	STATEMENT BY JOHN YINGLING	116
13	STATEMENT BY SARAH TAYLOR	122
	STATEMENT BY JASON OCEPEK	126
14	STATEMENT BY STEPHEN LOVE	128
	STATEMENT BY STEPHEN LAU	134
15	STATEMENT BY DON CRANE	136
	STATEMENT BY ROSANNE POTTER	139
16	STATEMENT BY JOANNE SCUDDER	141
	STATEMENT BY TOM SCHOCK	143
17	STATEMENT BY STEVE DEVER	147
	STATEMENT BY TOM WASILEWSKI	150
18	STATEMENT BY BRIAN DEMBINSKI	157
	STATEMENT BY JENNIFER THARP	159
19	STATEMENT BY STEPHEN GABOR	164
	STATEMENT BY CHRISTINE LAMB	167
20	STATEMENT BY JONATHAN STEIRER	170
	STATEMENT BY SUZANNE REILLY	173
21	STATEMENT BY ANDY KROTSENG	175
	STATEMENT BY JONATHAN HOLODY	176
22	STATEMENT BY STEVE McPHEE	178
	STATEMENT BY AKSHAI SINGH	180
23	STATEMENT BY JON ECKERLE	183
	STATEMENT BY LINDA NEW	185
24	STATEMENT BY TOM BULLOCK	189

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

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MS. ADDISON: I think we're going to
begin now, if everyone would take their
seats. Let's go on the record.

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The Ohio Power Siting Board has
assigned for public hearing at this time
and place Case Number 16-1871-EL-BGN which
is captioned In the Matter of the
Application of Icebreaker Windpower,
Incorporated, for a Certificate to
Construct a Wind-Powered Electric
Generation Facility in Cuyahoga County,
Ohio.

My name is Megan Addison, and with
me tonight is Nick Walstra. We are the
Administrative Law Judges assigned by the
Ohio Power Siting Board to preside over
this local hearing. There are also staff
members from the Ohio Power Siting Board,
including Matt Butler, Grant Zeto, Stuart
Siegfried, and individuals from the Public
Affairs Department, Jill Kocher, Brittany
Waugaman, and Ken Norris present this
evening. I believe they're all standing

1 outside in the hallway. You probably
2 passed them on your way in. They will be
3 available if you have any questions
4 concerning the application or any other
5 general questions you may have regarding
6 the Ohio Power Siting Board, please feel
7 free to approach them at the completion of
8 this evening's hearing.

9 At this time, I'm going to begin
10 taking formal appearances on behalf of the
11 parties of this particular case.

12 On behalf of the applicant?

13 MS. PIRIK: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 On behalf of Icebreaker Windpower, Inc.,
15 who has applied for a certificate to build
16 a six turbine demonstration project in Lake
17 Erie, the law firm of Dickinson Wright by
18 Chris Pirik, Terrence O'Donnell, and Jon
19 Secrest, 150 East Gay Street, Columbus,
20 Ohio, 43215.

21 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

22 Are there any other parties that
23 would like to make an appearance at this
24 time?

25 MS. LEPPLA: Yes, Your Honor,

**Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018
PUCO Hearing**

7

1 Miranda Leppla on behalf of the Ohio
2 Environmental Council and Sierra Club, 1145
3 Chesapeake Avenue, Suite I, Columbus, Ohio,
4 43212.

5 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

6 MS. WELKER: Good evening, Your
7 Honor. Lori Welker from Benesch
8 Friedlander on behalf of the local resident
9 intervenor Robert Maloney, Leon Blazey,
10 Gregory Binford, and Susan Dempsey. And
11 I'm at 41 South High Street, Suite 2600,
12 Columbus, Ohio 43215.

13 MS. ADDISON: Thank you very much.

14 Are there any other parties that
15 would like to make a formal appearance at
16 this time?

17 Thank you.

18 The subject matter of this evening's
19 public hearing is the application filed on
20 February 1st, 2017 and as supplemented on
21 March 13th, 2017 and March 22nd, 2018 to
22 construct a wind-powered electric
23 generation facility in Ohio. This public
24 hearing is only one aspect of the process
25 for this case. I would note that another

**Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018
PUCO Hearing**

8

1 public hearing in this case was conducted
2 here last November at which several members
3 of the public provided testimony.

4 Additionally, the adjudicatory hearing for
5 this proceeding is scheduled to begin on
6 August 6th, 2018 at the board's offices in
7 Columbus, Ohio.

8 Staff filed a Staff Report of
9 Investigation on July 3rd, 2018. In its
10 report, staff recommends that the board
11 authorize construction of the wind farm
12 subject to 34 conditions, including, but
13 not limited to, obtaining and complying
14 with all required federal and state permits
15 or authorizations, complying with the
16 turbine manufacturer's most current safety
17 manual, and shutting down turbines from
18 dusk to dawn from March 1st through
19 January 1st until it's been demonstrated
20 that the post-construction avian and bat
21 collision monitoring plan is sufficient.

22 The staff report in this proceeding should
23 be viewed simply as staff's recommendation,
24 and does not necessarily reflect what the
25 board's final determination will be in this

1 case.

2 If you'd like to view the engineer's
3 schedule, the hearings, or the staff
4 report, they are both available on the
5 board's docketing website. Staff has been
6 kind enough to compile a fact sheet that
7 includes quick descriptions of the
8 application process and the proposed
9 project, as well as a summary of the staff
10 report and some of the recommended
11 conditions. They are available at the
12 entrance, and I would encourage all of you
13 to pick up a copy if you haven't done so
14 already.

15 In this case, the applicant submits
16 that the purpose of the proposed project is
17 to produce wind-powered electricity that
18 will maximize energy production in the
19 proposed project area in order to deliver
20 clean, renewable electricity to the Ohio
21 bulk power transmission system and serve
22 the needs of electric utilities and their
23 customers.

24 Icebreaker Wind, which is a
25 collaboration of the Lake Erie Energy

1 Development Corporation and Fred Olsen
2 Renewables proposes to construct six wind
3 turbine generators, each with a nameplate
4 capacity rating of 3.45 megawatts for a
5 total generating capacity of 20.7
6 megawatts, in addition to submerged
7 electric collection cables and a
8 substation. Icebreaker Wind states that
9 facility is expected to operate for
10 approximately 8,200 hours annually and
11 generate approximately 75,000 megawatt
12 hours of electricity each year. The
13 facility is the first proposed fresh water
14 offshore wind farm in North America.

15 The purpose of this evening's public
16 hearing is to receive comments from the
17 public regarding Icebreaker Wind's
18 application in this case. It is not
19 intended to be a question and answer
20 session, but instead it's your opportunity
21 to let the Ohio Power Siting Board know
22 what you think about the proposal set forth
23 in the application.

24 I would also note that if you or
25 your organization has intervened in this

**Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018
PUCO Hearing**

11

1 proceeding, it would not be appropriate for
2 you to provide comments at today's hearing,
3 and you'll have an opportunity to present
4 evidence, including testimony, at the
5 adjudicatory hearing in August.

6 Tonight's hearing is being
7 transcribed by a court reporter. If you
8 plan to testify, please speak clearly so
9 that the court reporter can accurately
10 reflect your comments on the record. Also,
11 if you have prepared a written statement,
12 it would be helpful to provide a copy of
13 that to the court reporter, as well.

14 When you arrived, you were offered
15 the opportunity to sign up to testify by
16 staff. After I finish with the
17 introduction, I will begin calling
18 witnesses forward in the order that they
19 have signed up on the sign-up sheet, and
20 ask you to come up to this microphone up
21 front and face the court reporter.

22 Before you present your testimony, I
23 will ask you to make an oath or affirmation
24 that what you are about to say is the
25 truth. I will also ask you to state your

**Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018
PUCO Hearing**

12

1 name and address. Your testimony will be
2 considered part of the official record in
3 this case, and it will be reviewed by the
4 board before they make their final decision
5 on the application. Additionally, the
6 parties to the case and I will be permitted
7 to ask a few questions about your
8 statement. Please answer these questions
9 to the best of your ability. Should you
10 decide that you do not want to testify when
11 I call your name, you can merely pass to
12 the next witness. Also, once you finish
13 testifying or if you're here just to
14 observe, you may leave at any time you
15 wish, or stay until the conclusion of the
16 hearing.

17 The board appreciates your
18 participation in tonight's hearing, and I
19 want everyone who wishes to make a public
20 statement to have the opportunity to do so.
21 So please be considerate of others, we need
22 to get their testimony, and keep your
23 statements to a reasonable period of time.

24 For those who provided comments at
25 the public hearing in November, your

**Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018
PUCO Hearing**

13

1 comments are still part of this record and
2 will be considered by the board. Unless
3 you have additional information or
4 statements to present for the board's
5 consideration, I would ask that you refrain
6 from submitting the same testimony again in
7 order to provide those who have not had the
8 opportunity to do so this evening.

9 And if there's nothing further, I
10 think we'll begin calling witnesses at this
11 time. And we will do our best to pronounce
12 your name, just reading off the sheets. I
13 apologize for any mispronunciations.

14 The first name we have is Thomas C.
15 Sullivan, Jr.

16 - - - -

17 THOMAS C. SULLIVAN, JR., of lawful age, being
18 first duly sworn, testified upon his oath as
19 follows:

20 MS. ADDISON: Please state your name
21 and your address.

22 MR. SULLIVAN: Thomas C. Sullivan,
23 Jr., 29360 Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio.

24 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.
25

1 STATEMENT BY THOMAS C. SULLIVAN, JR.:

2 Thank you. Thank you, Your Honor,
3 Your Honor, presiding judges, I appreciate
4 you being here.

5 I'd also like to recognize and thank
6 the OPSB Siting Board, including Chairman
7 Asim Haque, also the Director of the Ohio
8 EPA, the Director of Ohio Development
9 Services Agency, Director of the Ohio
10 National Resources on the board, Director
11 of the Department of Agriculture, the
12 Director of the Ohio Department of Health,
13 and the two Ohio State Senators who sit on
14 the board in the capacity of giving advice,
15 as well as the two Ohio State House
16 Representatives that sit on the board. And
17 my testimony is directed at the board and
18 them.

19 I have no personal skin in the game
20 here. I don't work for a coal company, I
21 don't work for a green energy company.
22 I've been following this issue since about
23 2013 when it first got on the radar.

24 And it's a very polarizing issue.
25 People tend to be on one side or the other.

1 I do think once they get more information,
2 they come over to the other side. And I'm
3 here to give testimony about what I've
4 learned about this in various articles, and
5 researching myself, without any legal help
6 in doing so.

7 The thing I would like to talk about
8 first is the world's fresh water status in
9 2018. Today, according to most any studies
10 you read, 97.5 percent of the Earth's
11 surface water is salt water. You can't
12 drink salt water, or you will die. 2.5
13 percent of the world's water is fresh
14 drinking water. Twenty percent of the
15 world's fresh drinking water today is
16 located in the Great Lakes. Lake Erie has
17 127 trillion gallons of fresh drinking
18 water and supplies millions of U.S.
19 citizens, Clevelanders, and other residents
20 surrounding Lake Erie's 871 mile perimeter
21 coastline and 45 miles across to Canada,
22 with depths ranging from five feet to
23 nearly 210 feet deep.

24 Today, many in the world are saying
25 that fresh water is the new oil. This is

1 because water scarcity and the world's
2 growing population's thirst for fresh
3 drinking water, either to live, for crops,
4 manufacturing, all types of industry, rural
5 and urban life, and Lake Erie is truly
6 Ohio's gem to be protected and kept clean.

7 So Mr. Chairman, why build a wind
8 farm in the fresh drinking waters of Lake
9 Erie? So the question is, why are
10 environmental advocates for green energy
11 pushing and pursuing an industrial turbine
12 wind farm and the industrialization of Lake
13 Erie? The current Lake Erie wind farm
14 project plans to build six 500 foot wind
15 towers to start with, at a cost of
16 \$120 million, with over 50 million of this
17 money coming from U.S. taxpayers at
18 20 million per industrial wind tower.

19 Mr. Chairman, the advocates for
20 these industrial turbines say that they
21 want to use Lake Erie as a clean energy
22 field, a quote, that "this will be one of
23 the world's first fresh water industrial
24 wind turbine farms," and that "Lake Erie
25 could become the green version of Saudi

1 Arabia." This begs the question, why have
2 all the other offshore major wind projects
3 in the world today been in salt water, or
4 brackish water, or in the oceans, or in the
5 seas? Why have there been no large scale
6 industrial wind turbine in fresh water?

7 The answer is quite simple, because
8 it's fresh water, and people drink fresh
9 water, and they don't want it fouled up
10 with hulking, bottom piercing, rusting,
11 inefficient, monstrous wind towers, that
12 could be susceptible to ruining all the
13 fresh drinking water, wildlife habitats, in
14 which these industrial wind turbines are
15 placed.

16 Mr. Chairman, also, salt water does
17 not freeze over. The fresh water in Lake
18 Erie will freeze over, as it does every
19 couple of years, which will potentially
20 snap these 500 foot wind turbine poles like
21 toothpicks. Who will clean up this type of
22 massive pollution, eyesore, and
23 environmental disaster when this happens?

24 Mr. Chairman, not many people have
25 been to the exact location where this

1 LEEDCo project is currently proposing to
2 put up six 500 foot wind towers on Lake
3 Erie in 65 feet of water. I've been out
4 there, on the water, in Lake Erie, in the
5 exact location of the proposed industrial
6 wind turbines. I was out there at the site
7 on August 29, 2015 on my Sea-Doo, watching
8 the DOSECCA vessel taking their soil
9 samples from the bottom of Lake Erie. And
10 there are a few issues with the location
11 that all Clevelanders, Ohioans and OPSB
12 members should consider.

13 Mr. Chairman, the project sits about
14 six to seven miles offshore of Lakewood,
15 Ohio, and unfortunately, halfway out to the
16 site sits the City of Cleveland's water
17 intake crib. This water intake crib, among
18 others in Lake Erie, provides 168 million
19 gallons of fresh drinking water to
20 Cleveland residents and millions of Ohioans
21 every day, 11 million citizens a day.

22 Approximately three miles from this
23 crib is where the first of six \$20 million
24 apiece, \$50 million in taxpayer funded
25 industrial turbine wind towers will be

1 placed into the bottom of Lake Erie. Now,
2 how deep are the footings or the base boxes
3 of the towers going to go down when they
4 are placed directly into the bottom of Lake
5 Erie, in boxes that are supposedly designed
6 to settle on the bottom of Lake Erie
7 through 50, to 100, to 150 years of toxic
8 sludge?

9 So how deep does a company from
10 Norway, mind you, not America -- yes, this
11 U.S. taxpayer funded project is going to a
12 company from Norway. How much toxic sludge
13 is this Norwegian company going to have to
14 push through to get to lake Erie's bottom
15 to secure just one 500 foot tall industrial
16 wind turbine at 65 foot of depth under the
17 fresh drinking waters of Lake Erie. The
18 project will be done with an unproven box
19 method that LEEDCo and Fred Olsen from
20 Norway are happy to experiment with in our
21 127 trillion gallons of fresh water, aka,
22 our awesome natural resource, Lake Erie.

23 I would like to submit for the
24 record an article from Belt Magazine of May
25 9, 2016 entitled Sediment Blob in Lake

1 Erie. This article states that about nine
2 miles from the Cleveland shoreline a blob
3 of toxic sediment rests on the bottom of
4 Lake Erie underneath 60 feet of water.
5 They call this area, that is well known to
6 the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers
7 CLA-1 because of what sludge sits there on
8 the bottom of Lake Erie after years of
9 abuse of Lake Erie during Ohio's
10 industrialization from the mid to late
11 1800s, to the early 1900s, all the way to
12 the 1970s.

13 This abuse continued until our
14 federal government stood up, and our state
15 and local government in Ohio stood up and
16 did an excellent job of cleaning up Lake
17 Erie, which makes Lake Erie one of the
18 cleanest fresh drinking watersheds in the
19 world today. Lake Erie is the 11th largest
20 fresh water lake in the world today.

21 This article states that the CLA-1
22 area consists of over 30, 50, to 100, 150
23 years, by some counts, of cumulated
24 carcinogens sitting on the top of
25 themselves, such as lead, magnesium,

1 arsenic, mercury, PCBs, and many different
2 hazardous toxic chemicals that have finally
3 settled down nicely at the bottom of Lake
4 Erie after years of abuse, finally not
5 harming Lake Erie's current fresh drinking
6 water. Most of all, these carcinogens have
7 been linked to cancer and birth defects, if
8 consumed.

9 So what's going to happen when this
10 toxic sludge is all mixed up by the first
11 of the six proposed monstrous wind turbines
12 and then the other five massive poles?

13 Mr. Chairman, the thing about the
14 current location of Lake Erie for this
15 project is all of this sludge and all of
16 this toxic waste and chemicals that have
17 built up over the past hundred years is
18 going to be stirred up and flow directly
19 into the Cleveland water crib, thus
20 polluting, toxifying, and poisoning
21 millions of Ohio children, young adults,
22 adults, and elder people. This is not even
23 mentioning our border states and our
24 Canadian waters. We're talking about lead,
25 mercury, PCBs, dioxins, magnesium, arsenic,

1 and the release of all these chemicals that
2 have been deposited in Lake Erie, in one
3 form or another, since the mid to late
4 1800s, early 1900s, and to the 1970s. If
5 this project goes foul, and the water goes
6 foul, and flows into the Cleveland water
7 crib, what individuals, what corporations,
8 Mr. Chairman, LEEDCo, Fred Olsen
9 Renewables, what billionaire from Norway,
10 who is going to be civilly and criminally
11 liable to those citizens who are directly
12 affected, and to the taxpayers of the State
13 of Ohio and the United States who are
14 funding this project. Mr. Chairman, this
15 project could be considered a tort lawyer's
16 dream.

17 Mr. Chairman, as discussed before,
18 we know the six 500 foot industrial wind
19 turbines, with unproven box base
20 construction, is going right down through
21 the industrial sludge of this CLA-1 zone,
22 which is currently sitting quietly and
23 undisturbed at the bottom of Lake Erie.
24 Once this sediment is disturbed, and Lake
25 Erie's fresh water and this sludge is

1 stirred up, what's that going to look like,
2 and how will this affect the current
3 quality of our fresh water and drinking
4 water of Lake Erie today, particularly with
5 the proposed industrial wind farm so close
6 to the Cleveland water intake?

7 Mr. Chairman, what will the water
8 look like and contain in toxicity compared
9 to the water in Flint, Michigan? And if
10 this water is not potable or drinkable for
11 millions of Clevelanders, and Ohioans, and
12 Americans, or Canadians, and people and
13 their children are harmed, who will be at
14 fault? Will it be LEEDCo, Fred Olsen
15 Renewables, and others? Who has thrust,
16 Mr. Chairman, this great honor upon
17 Cleveland and Lake Erie, to be the first
18 fresh water industrial turbine wind farm,
19 the 11th largest and most reliable fresh
20 drinking water resource in the world today?

21 I concur that offshore industrial
22 wind turbine farms, Mr. Chairman, can be a
23 viable green energy source, but not in
24 fresh drinking water. Keep them offshore
25 in salt water where they belong.

1 MS. ADDISON: Mr. Sullivan, I
2 apologize to interrupt, but we do have over
3 50 names signed up to testify this evening.
4 I just want to make sure everyone has an
5 opportunity to speak.

6 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. Thank you.
7 Let me just say that related to
8 that, in Flint, Michigan, they have not had
9 safe drinking water in Flint, Michigan in
10 1,547 days, from today, and counting. And
11 if you want to reference this, go to
12 RVAFlint, #SaveFlintChallenge, a GoFundMe
13 site to buy bottled water for Flint,
14 Michigan children, mothers, fathers, and
15 the elderly. In Flint, Michigan, 100,000
16 residents, three times a day, have to
17 traverse across town to get fresh bottled
18 water in big five gallon jugs, for
19 drinking, and for bathing, to fulfill their
20 daily ration. Why? They can't drink their
21 tap water. Why is this? Because the
22 government body let a taxpayer funded
23 decision happen in Flint, Michigan, mostly
24 under the radar, without input from its
25 citizens or what thoughts could happen to

1 their fresh water supply.

2 A VOICE: How about the next
3 (inaudible).

4 MR. SULLIVAN: Mr. Chairman --

5 MS. ADDISON: One moment. One
6 moment, Mr. Sullivan. And please refrain
7 from shouting out, just to keep things in
8 an orderly fashion.

9 Mr. Sullivan, I do want to provide
10 all those who signed up this evening, so if
11 you could quickly conclude your remarks,
12 maybe with a few additional statements, and
13 then we can move on to the next person who
14 would like to speak.

15 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay.

16 MS. ADDISON: Thank you so much.

17 MR. SULLIVAN: I have a number of
18 key issues, and I will submit some more for
19 the record. This is the final key issue
20 that I want to bring up.

21 MS. ADDISON: Mr. Sullivan, it may
22 be easier, you can also submit a copy of
23 your written comments. I believe that
24 you're reading off a provided statement
25 there.

1 MR. SULLIVAN: Yes.

2 MS. ADDISON: You can actually
3 submit those online. If you'd like to talk
4 to us after, or talk to staff about how to
5 do that, submit those comments online, the
6 board can consider them.

7 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay.

8 MS. ADDISON: I just want to provide
9 everyone who does not have a written
10 statement tonight, that they can have a
11 chance to speak.

12 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. So I have one
13 more point, and I have a concluding point,
14 which is a main point.

15 MS. ADDISON: Okay.

16 MR. SULLIVAN: And this is about
17 following the money. It's about green
18 crony capitalism. And like with
19 everything, let's try to follow the money
20 here.

21 The Ohio Public Trust, which is Ohio
22 people's rights to Lake Erie, via the ODNR,
23 granted a 50 year lease to nonprofit LEEDCo
24 to develop the bottom of Lake Erie. Fred
25 Olsen, a Norwegian billionaire buys LEEDCo

1 for how much? This is undisclosed. It's
2 said to be confidential by LEEDCo.

3 So does the 50 year exclusive rights
4 granted to LEEDCo, a nonprofit, by ODNR to
5 develop the bottom of our Lake Erie go to
6 Fred Olsen and his Icebreaker Windpower,
7 Inc. company, a for-profit company? Has
8 this transfer of exclusive rights been
9 approved and granted by the ODNR?

10 For this is the price that it costs
11 for a Norwegian billionaire to buy the
12 rights to the bottom of our Lake Erie, the
13 Ohio Public Trust. According to Lorry
14 Wagner of LEEDCo, there has been an LOI
15 signed, a letter of intent, between Fred
16 Olsen Renewables and LEEDCo, which will
17 create the Icebreaker Windpower, Inc.
18 company, a company that I couldn't even
19 find registered in the United States.

20 MS. ADDISON: Mr. Sullivan,
21 Mr. Sullivan --

22 MR. SULLIVAN: Please tell us --

23 MS. ADDISON: Everyone, please.

24 Thank you.

25 I believe you're still reading from

1 your written statement?

2 MR. SULLIVAN: Yes.

3 MS. ADDISON: At this time, I would

4 encourage you just to submit that online.

5 The board can consider your comments. But

6 we really do need to keep things going and

7 allow everyone an opportunity to speak.

8 MR. SULLIVAN: If I may --

9 MS. ADDISON: Mr. Sullivan --

10 MR. SULLIVAN: I'm not reading. I'm

11 not reading anymore. I'm just trying to

12 get a final point.

13 MS. ADDISON: Very briefly.

14 MR. SULLIVAN: Briefly.

15 MS. ADDISON: Thank you, thank you.

16 Let's go off the record.

17 (Discussion had off the record.)

18 MS. ADDISON: Let's go back on the

19 record.

20 MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you, Your

21 Honor.

22 The public trust doctrine, through

23 the federal government, gives --

24 MS. ADDISON: Mr. Sullivan, I

25 directed a very brief statement. You can

1 just finish up in one or two sentences, and
2 then take your seat. I'd like to move on
3 to the next speaker.

4 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. Okay, Your
5 Honor.

6 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

7 MR. SULLIVAN: In review, and I will
8 submit my full testimony --

9 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

10 A VOICE: Sit down.

11 MR. SULLIVAN: I'd like to thank you
12 for the time, and I'd like to have
13 everyone, and Mr. Chairman, consider the
14 effects of a fouled up Lake Erie, and our
15 great national resource, and if the
16 drinking water is fouled up, the question
17 is going to be, where is the liability
18 going to go, who is going to pay, what are
19 the costs going to be, what people are
20 going to be fired, what people are going to
21 be held criminally responsible, who is
22 going to go to jail.

23 A VOICE: Give someone else a chance
24 to talk.

25 MR. SULLIVAN: And I'd like to thank

1 you, Mr. Chairman, for your time, and this
2 very important issue of our greatest
3 natural resource, Lake Erie. Thank you.

4 MS. ADDISON: Thank you very much.

5 The next name I have on the list is
6 David Strane.

7 - - - -

8 DAVID STRANE of lawful age, being first duly
9 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

10 MS. ADDISON: Please state your name
11 and your address for the record.

12 MR. STRANE: David Strane, 21378
13 Avalon Drive, Rocky River, Ohio.

14 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

15 STATEMENT BY DAVID STRANE:

16 Okay, regarding this project, my
17 understanding is the Ohio Power Siting
18 Board is evaluating whether this is
19 environmentally friendly and whether it's
20 in the public interest.

21 So I, too, would like to thank the
22 siting board members for reviewing this
23 testimony. It's a privilege to be able to
24 sit here and address them through you all.
25 I appreciate your service, as well.

1 The environment. The killing of
2 birds and flying animals by wind turbines
3 is well documented. The siting board has
4 ample studies evidencing that birds and
5 flying animals fly on all parts of Lake
6 Erie, including proposed turbine locations.
7 This includes endangered species like the
8 Kirtland Wobbler. The American Bird
9 Conservancy and the Black Swamp Bird
10 Observatory have submitted research on
11 this.

12 There's been some discussion about
13 whether birds are going to be flying in the
14 location of these turbines, and these
15 people have indicated that there is minimal
16 birds flying.

17 So I'd like to introduce a quote
18 from March 2011, Jeff Schmidt of the
19 Pennsylvania Sierra Club testified to the
20 Pennsylvania State Legislature. He stated
21 that Lake Erie is unique among the Great
22 Lakes because its shallow depth provides
23 forage grounds for ducks, loons, horned
24 grebes and other waterfowl across its
25 entire surface. Shore birds, songbirds,

1 and raptors all across the lake at varying
2 locations and altitudes and migratory birds
3 are already stressed.

4 Lake Erie is unique in that its
5 shallow depths provides potential habitat
6 for pelagics across most of the lake's
7 surface. That's basically an organic
8 ecosystem, that because the lake is so
9 shallow and so big, this is an attraction
10 for many birds and waterfowl.

11 The Lake Erie Central Basin is a
12 designated globally important bird area
13 according to the National Audubon Society
14 and Bird Conservation International
15 Society. Based on studies by the Fish and
16 Wildlife Service, from 400,000 to
17 13 million songbirds fly at the height of
18 the wind turbine blades over the course of
19 one year.

20 So most European countries forbid
21 the development of wind turbines within
22 12 miles of shore, and that's to protect
23 birds and wildfowl.

24 I will skip the threat to our water,
25 since Mr. Sullivan already addressed that.

1 According to LEEDCo and Fred Olsen
2 filings, each turbine will have 404 gallons
3 of oil in it. There are many documented
4 cases of unexpected oil leaks. Huron
5 County in Michigan is just going through
6 that. That was in the news recently. You
7 can't predict it. It's fresh water, oil
8 leaks. If you have six turbines, which
9 then turn into 1,450 turbines, which LEEDCo
10 is saying that's the vision, 1,450 turbines
11 in the lake, that's a massive amount of oil
12 that's subject to leaking in the lake. We
13 think that's a risk that's not worth
14 taking.

15 Additionally, the infrasound effects
16 from the turbines have caused documented
17 negative health effects, and this whooshing
18 sound, this thumping sound, travels
19 unobstructed over the lake. And there's
20 actually something called a boombox effect,
21 which this whooshing, pounding sound of the
22 turbines pushing the wind is multiplied by
23 greater than the sum of the turbines. So,
24 you know, that's just another negative
25 element to this project.

1 Yes, LEEDCo apparently has signed a
2 purchase agreement with Fred Olsen Company,
3 which is an oil and gas developer that has
4 got renewables. Obviously Fred Olsen
5 Company likes the idea of tax credits and
6 mandated rate increases.

7 The lake is for the public use, and
8 that's part of the trust that the lake sits
9 in. To lease the lake to a private
10 developer, to build turbines with our
11 taxpayer money, and charge many times the
12 going rate of electricity that we can buy
13 it on the open market, seems crazy.

14 Let's talk about the jobs for a
15 second, because the power cost is --
16 Cleveland Public Power is contracted, they
17 have a cap that they will pay no more than
18 550 percent of the going rate for power.
19 So can you imagine 1,450 wind turbines out
20 here, the increase in power costs to all
21 our residents and businesses.

22 Now, Ontario, Canada -- so as many
23 jobs as LEEDCo is claiming they're going to
24 create with building these wind turbines,
25 we're going to lose many thousands more

1 because the cost of electricity goes up,
2 manufacturers and businesses will move
3 production to less costly locations.

4 This is happening in Ontario, Canada
5 today. They just elected a new Premier.
6 This Premier is on record by saying the
7 number one issue that he had was the cost
8 of electricity, or as they call it, their
9 Hydro. It's so expensive that it has
10 driven manufacturing out of Ontario, it's
11 cost thousands of jobs, and residents are
12 paying many times the rate that they would
13 have been able to get on the open market
14 for electricity.

15 So the Premier has put a moratorium
16 on wind energy, and they've already had
17 moratorium on offshore wind energy, at
18 least they're that smart. And I hope we
19 can learn from their experience that this
20 is a failed experiment already. I mean,
21 all we have to do is look across the lake
22 and see that Ontario has already done that,
23 on shore wind turbines by the thousands,
24 and look what it's done to their economy
25 and their quality of life, significant.

1 Let's talk about property tax,
2 because there's also on record, including
3 in Wolfe Island, where they've got some on
4 shore wind turbines, that the lakefront
5 property values go down. Property taxes
6 are based on property values. Property
7 taxes go to fund our schools, they fund our
8 local government. We need those dollars.

9 So not only is our tax dollars going
10 to build the turbines, but they're going to
11 charge us more for electricity, for the
12 electricity coming from those turbines.
13 Then the property taxes go down, so less
14 money goes into the coffers of our
15 governments and our schools. This seems
16 silly and foolish.

17 A VOICE: Next person, please.

18 MR. WALSTRA: Ma'am.

19 MS. ADDISON: Please don't
20 interrupt. Thank you.

21 MR. STRANE: I'll be just a second.

22 The quiet enjoyment. Lake Erie's
23 pristine beauty is an inspiration to
24 tourists, residents, fishermen, birders,
25 recreational enthusiasts, runners who run

1 along the lake, boaters, sailors,
2 kiteboards, windsurfers, photographers, all
3 these people depend on this great natural
4 resource for quiet enjoyment.

5 The lake belongs to us. Why would
6 our officials even consider leasing a large
7 portion to a foreign oil and gas company
8 owned by a billionaire who wants the tax
9 credit and mandated rate increases?

10 We've heard about the risk to our
11 water already. I mean, in Flint, they
12 didn't think that was going to happen. It
13 was the scientists there who evaluated
14 that, thought it was safe. I'm sure LEEDCo
15 has paid their consultants to say the same
16 thing. It's a risk that is just not worth
17 taking.

18 So that's all I have. Thank you
19 very much. I appreciate it.

20 MS. ADDISON: The next name I have
21 is Sherri Lange.

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1 SHERRI LANGE of lawful age, being first duly
2 sworn, testified upon her oath as follows:

3 MS. ADDISON: Please state your name
4 and address.

5 MS. LANGE: Sure. It's Sherri
6 Lange, 109 Toynbee Trail, T-O-Y-N-B-E-E,
7 Trail, in Toronto, Scarborough.

8 STATEMENT BY SHERRI LANGE:

9 Okay, I'm very happy to be here,
10 Your Honors, and I would like to thank OPSB
11 for receiving, over countless numbers of
12 years now, our comments about the Great
13 Lakes, some of which are mirrored in
14 Mr. Sullivan's and Mr. Strane's remarks
15 already today.

16 We came here before you today, very
17 specifically, we have been peppering the
18 OPSB with tons of information about
19 offshore and especially fresh water
20 projects, why they are entirely (inaudible)
21 from our point of view. I just would like
22 to back it up a little minute to tell you
23 who I represent. I'm not just here for
24 myself as a citizen of Toronto, having
25 achieved an offshore Ontario (inaudible),

1 I'm here on behalf of 370 North American
2 groups. I'm the CEO of North American
3 Platform Against Windpower, and a founding
4 member of Great Lakes Wind Truth, and a few
5 others, but it all blends together in the
6 end.

7 So there's quite a bit of knowledge
8 that we have done, well over 10,000 hours
9 of research, which puts us in a position,
10 we are not beholden to anybody, we don't
11 carry any grudges, we just speak the truth
12 as we have learned about it from our
13 research.

14 So one thing that we do know is that
15 wind turbine, it's a failed technology.
16 The world has now acknowledged that this is
17 a failed technology. Germany is sneaking
18 in nuclear from the back door and building
19 up coal as fast as it can. Germany, as we
20 all know, was the wunderkind of the green
21 movement in the world.

22 So there's disasters in Australia,
23 Spain, the UK, Ireland, France. France has
24 over 5,000 anti wind groups. I'm not sure
25 if you're aware of that, but that's a large

1 number.

2 So I have a fair few comments in
3 different areas that I'd like to just share
4 with you, if I could, and I'll leave one
5 document with you.

6 Coming from Ontario, having lived in
7 Ontario for the last 15 -- well, I've lived
8 there for a long time, but for the last 15
9 years, we have seen an energy disaster.
10 And as Mr. Strane referenced, we have a new
11 Premier who calls industrial wind a scam.
12 He is determined to take turbines down on
13 land, and as you know, we have an offshore
14 moratorium already, since 2011.

15 This is a province that was intent
16 on peppering -- we had a liberal
17 government -- more than 4,000 turbines in
18 prime industrial land, intensely sensitive
19 areas, bird important areas, and areas of
20 natural and scientific interest. They
21 didn't care. They peppered the land with
22 it. Obviously there were consequences,
23 including dirty water in Chatham-Kent, just
24 Google it, Chatham-Kent, dirty water, wind
25 turbines. It's a disaster.

1 So now we have an economy that is in
2 shatters. Literally we have the largest
3 subnational debt in the world. And it is
4 because, according to the Fraser Institute,
5 a think tank in Canada, because of the high
6 subsidies paid to wind and solar. The cost
7 of power in Ontario should be six and a
8 half cents per kilowatt hour. The wind
9 developer on land gets 14 and a half cents
10 per kilowatt hour, offshore (inaudible) get
11 18 and a half cents, and solar was getting
12 80 cents, and then they knocked it down to
13 50 because they thought, oh, my God, we
14 can't afford this.

15 We can't afford any of this. Our
16 new Premier has been given a clear mandate,
17 a majority government, he has declared a
18 moratorium, we are moving in a different
19 direction. So it is a complete disaster.

20 Jobs. I just want to point out that
21 one of the monikers of the wind industry is
22 that it is going to create jobs. It sounds
23 great. We all want jobs for our
24 territories, for our people. In Ontario,
25 we've lost 300,000 jobs, manufacturing

1 mostly, because of wind and solar, in the
2 last 15 years. It's untenable. We used to
3 be the manufacturing giant of Canada.
4 We're now a disaster zone. So the new
5 Premier understands this. I'm here to urge
6 you not to make the same mistakes that
7 Ontario has made.

8 I would just like to just talk again
9 for a little minute about some of the
10 serious discrepancies between what the wind
11 developers tell us and what we know to be
12 true. I believe we heard that the LEEDCo
13 representatives, or Mr. Wagner himself, I'm
14 not sure, indicated that most of the birds
15 do not fly over the lake. I believe we've
16 seen that several times. That is patently
17 false, okay? It's one of these things that
18 the general observer can see. We stand in
19 Toronto, we watch them fly in. We go to
20 Point Peele, just across from here, and we
21 see them flying in. They're flying in the
22 millions, tens of millions, across the
23 lake, every kind of creature, butterflies
24 included.

25 So I'd like to talk a bit about an

1 example of non-turbines (inaudible), where
2 the people put a tremendous amount of power
3 into fighting a project between an
4 aerodrome and a municipal airport. And our
5 developers hired a fancy --

6 MS. PIRIK: Excuse me.

7 MS. ADDISON: Yes, go ahead.

8 MS. PIRIK: We'd like to object.

9 First of all, this is a hearing for the
10 Cuyahoga County Cleveland offshore wind
11 turbine farm.

12 Secondly is, we would just like to
13 know -- and we have no problem with an
14 appropriately-lengthed testimony by this
15 witness, even though she is from out of the
16 country, but to bring in additional
17 testimony that has nothing to do with the
18 farm that we are proposing in this
19 application, and to take additional time, I
20 mean, I think there has to be some limit,
21 because we do have proponents and opponents
22 here who would like to testify. If there
23 is any way that they can keep their
24 comments shortened so everybody will have a
25 chance.

1 MS. ADDISON: Thank you all. Thank
2 you.

3 MS. LANGE: I've come a long way,
4 six and a half hours driving, I left early
5 this morning, and just wanted --

6 MS. ADDISON: Ms. Lange, one moment.

7 (Pause)

8 MS. ADDISON: Thank you, Ms. Pirik.
9 Your objection is noted on the record.

10 Ms. Lange, maybe perhaps you could
11 move on to this particular project, and
12 limit your comments to this.

13 MS. LANGE: Sure.

14 MS. ADDISON: And I would also
15 remind you that -- I know I said this --

16 MS. LANGE: I'm almost done.

17 MS. ADDISON: Okay.

18 MS. LANGE: I'm almost done, and I
19 appreciate the objection, as well. Thank
20 you.

21 I just want to remind you that there
22 are reference points when we're doing such
23 an important thing as putting, potentially,
24 turbines in one of the Great Lakes, Lake
25 Erie, a lake I'm very familiar with, as

1 well. And we have Lake Ontario, but we're
2 just down the line. Whatever you put into
3 your lake, we get into Lake Ontario down
4 the line. So it does impact us.

5 The public trust issue was
6 mentioned. Your birds are our birds, your
7 water is our water, and the bats are
8 equally owned by both countries. So thank
9 you very much.

10 I'll just -- briefly, just briefly,
11 because the developers will tell you
12 there's no evidence of movement across the
13 lake. This is -- time and time again, by
14 other projects. They hire fancy people, in
15 this case, Dr. Reynolds, 16 year old expert
16 on bats [sic], he said there was no habitat
17 and no bats.

18 A citizen scientist produced this
19 beautiful map showing an abundance of bat
20 habitat and bat life, endangered species
21 included. And in Ontario, it is illegal to
22 kill one endangered bat, it is so not
23 allowed.

24 Thank you very much for your time.
25 I do appreciate the ability to meet these

1 beautiful people. I've been talking to
2 Ohioans and people from Rochester who care.

3 So we're very much in tune with the
4 Great Lakes, and we would welcome at some
5 point a party where we can celebrate a
6 Great Lakes moratorium.

7 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

8 Before we move on to the next name,
9 I just want to reiterate that the board
10 does have a process for submitting written
11 comments, that you will have the ability to
12 submit comments through that process, as
13 well.

14 But if we could keep things going,
15 maybe just hit key points. I would like to
16 try to get as many people up here to
17 testify. We are restricted by the
18 building. It does -- the parking garage
19 does shut down at 10:30, so we do have a
20 stopping point, and I'd like to get as many
21 people up here as possible. So please keep
22 that in mind when you're providing your
23 comments this evening.

24 The next name I have is Councilman
25 Matt Zone.

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MATT ZONE of lawful age, being first duly
sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Please
proceed.

STATEMENT BY MATT ZONE:

Thank you, Your Honor, and
Commission members, thank you for being
here today in our beautiful city. My name
is Matt Zone, I've served as a council
member for the City of Cleveland, Ward 15,
for the past 16 and a half years. I live
at 1228 West 69th Street, Cleveland, Ohio,
44102. I look right out my front porch to
look at our beautiful lake. My district
starts at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River
and runs all the way west to the City of
Lakewood. So the whole western border of
the City of Cleveland is in the district I
serve and represent.

Over the course of my career, I've
been recognized nationally, regionally, and
locally as a leader on environmental
issues. Last year, in 2017, I had the high
honor of serving as the president of the

1 National League of Cities. It's the oldest
2 and largest organization that represents
3 19,000 cities, towns, and villages, serving
4 more than 218,000 -- 218,000,000 Americans.
5 There are roughly 120,000 local elected
6 officials in the United States, and I had
7 the high honor of leading that
8 organization. We've worked extremely hard
9 as an organization, and I will submit for
10 the record our policy position on renewable
11 energy, the effects of wind generation, the
12 issues related to flickering, wildlife, and
13 the likes.

14 In 2005, I was one of the original
15 founding members of the Great Lakes Energy
16 Development Task Force which was chartered
17 with working on a plan to bring renewable
18 energy to the North Coast. I will be
19 brief, and I will try not to disparage
20 anyone in my comments.

21 There have been several references
22 already to billionaires and Fred Olsen.
23 Let me be abundantly clear. This is a
24 LEEDCo project. The selection of Mr. Olsen
25 was done through a competitive process to

1 find someone who could meet the unique
2 needs of this project. So for 13 years,
3 this community has been very methodically
4 meeting, debating, discussing, engaging,
5 having public hearings and meetings around
6 this issue. This is not something that was
7 just thought of overnight.

8 And many people in Cleveland
9 constantly say that our city needs to be
10 innovative, forward thinking, if we are to
11 grow. Well, the wind energy business is
12 exploding worldwide. There is seven
13 billion dollars of offshore wind farms
14 planned for the East Coast of the United
15 States alone.

16 And Cleveland has a significant
17 advanced manufacturing sector, unlike many
18 other metropolitan areas in our country.
19 Our manufacturers can capitalize on this
20 growth industry. The components, they have
21 to be made somewhere. Why not Cleveland?

22 There are many manufacturers in
23 Northeast Ohio who are very supportive of
24 this project. For example, in my district,
25 in my ward, less than a couple miles from

1 here, located on West 68th and Madison,
2 Advance Manufacturing Corporation, which
3 has been an anchor in our community since
4 1936. Advance Manufacturing has evolved
5 its business strategy now to fabricate
6 parts for the wind turbine industry.

7 Organized labor is also very
8 supportive, because they rightly see the
9 potential for jobs. This will be the first
10 ever fresh water wind farm in the world.
11 This will put Cleveland on the map in a
12 very good and positive way, not only
13 locally, but internationally. It will help
14 brand us as an innovative city that is
15 moving forward in the development of clean
16 energy. So clean energy is what we're here
17 to talk about.

18 Wind energy has, as you know, zero
19 emissions. It isn't affected by the
20 political problems, it's not affected by
21 wars. All we need is Mother Nature to do
22 her thing. And our tests show that she
23 will cooperate, particularly on the lake,
24 where the winds are strong enough, and
25 stronger than they are on land. It's a

1 form of clean energy that is rapidly
2 growing, and we need more generation with
3 zero emissions.

4 The City of Cleveland is committed
5 to this project. In 2008, I led an effort
6 and chaired our city's utilities committee,
7 where we held hearings around advanced
8 energy portfolio standards for the city,
9 and we adopted an advanced energy portfolio
10 standard that requires 20 percent of our
11 energy to be procured from a renewable
12 source by 2020, 25 percent by 2025. This
13 project will go a long way towards that
14 effort.

15 I want to thank you for coming to
16 our Hall, listening to both sides,
17 filtering out issues that aren't relevant
18 to this conversation, and really speaking
19 to the issues, and I'd ask that you approve
20 and allow this project to go forward.

21 MS. ADDISON: The next name I have
22 is Garry George.
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2 GARRY GEORGE of lawful age, being first duly
3 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

4 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Please
5 state your name and your address.

6 MR. GEORGE: Garry George, I'm based
7 at the Audubon Center at Debs Park, 4700
8 North Griffin Avenue, Los Angeles,
9 California.

10 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. You may
11 proceed.

12 STATEMENT BY GARRY GEORGE:

13 So I'm the Renewable Energy Director
14 for the National Audubon Society. We
15 submitted comments here before, written
16 comments, and have also testified before
17 this board at the hearing here in November.
18 I'm submitting another copy of the comments
19 for the record, in case you need it.

20 Our 2014 Audubon Climate report
21 tells us that 314 species of birds are
22 seriously threatened by changes in climate
23 in their breeding and wintering grounds
24 unless we reduce our emissions as soon as
25 possible. So transforming our energy

1 sector to renewables not only saves birds,
2 but also benefits people with clean air,
3 new jobs, and new growing economies in wind
4 and solar.

5 Audubon supports wind energy when it
6 is properly sited. Our concern here has
7 been and is for the potential impact of the
8 Icebreaker project on water birds,
9 especially the significant wintering
10 population of Red-breasted Merganser, and
11 the millions of birds that migrate twice a
12 year over the lake, two criteria that have
13 identified the Central Basin of Lake Erie
14 as a globally significant important bird
15 area in an international program for bird
16 conservation.

17 So the standards that the Ohio
18 Department of Natural Resources and the
19 Ohio Power Siting Board set for the data
20 collection, mortality monitoring, and
21 operational responses that avoid and
22 minimize impacts to birds we think will set
23 the standard for wind energy development,
24 if any, in the entire Great Lakes. So
25 accordingly, we support the standards set

1 in the MOU that Icebreaker Windpower, Inc.
2 and the Ohio Department of Natural
3 Resources have agreed to. We support that
4 MOU, and we think it protects the birds.

5 We also support the staff
6 recommendations on the conditions of the
7 permit regarding approvals of when the
8 project can begin construction, the
9 standards and technologies for the on-site
10 data collection, and the standards for
11 mortality monitoring and operation of the
12 project, including the option for Ohio
13 Power Siting Board and ODNR to schedule
14 curtailment of the turbines under certain
15 conditions to protect our birds.

16 So we thank, actually, the Ohio
17 Department of Natural Resources, we thank
18 the board, we thank Icebreaker Windpower
19 for their collaborative work on this
20 project to protect our birds, and we
21 support a certificate for the Icebreaker
22 project if the Ohio Power Siting Board
23 adopts the staff recommendations and the
24 conditions that they've put on for the
25 birds. Thank you.

1 MS. ADDISON: The next name I have
2 is Don Bauman.

3 - - - -

4 DON BAUMAN of lawful age, being first duly
5 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

6 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Please
7 state your name and your address for the
8 record.

9 MR BAUMAN: My name is Don Bauman.
10 My address is 3129 Evergreen, Toledo, Ohio.

11 STATEMENT BY DON BAUMAN:

12 I am the chair of the Black Swamp
13 Bird Observatory Conservation Committee and
14 a member of the Board of Directors. I
15 speak this evening representing both Black
16 Swamp and the American Bird Conservancy.

17 Black Swamp Bird Observatory and
18 American Bird Conservancy generally support
19 the Ohio Power Siting Board's staff report
20 of July 3rd, though we have some
21 reservations which will be discussed later,
22 because we anticipate that good ecological
23 science will prove that wind turbines do
24 not belong in globally important bird
25 areas.

1 Just to be clear, BSBO and ABC are
2 not now nor have we ever been in favor of
3 this project. The Central Basin of Lake
4 Erie, the proposed site of the Icebreaker
5 project and potentially thousands more
6 turbines, was designated as a globally
7 important bird area because it is a passage
8 route and foraging habitat for over 300
9 species of birds whose populations can be
10 measured in hundreds of millions every
11 year. Some species, such as the Kirtland's
12 Warbler, are in danger of extinction and
13 have been designated as endangered species.

14 After the Icebreaker project's
15 decade long history of scientific fumbling,
16 misinterpretation, and ineptness, we see
17 that the Power Siting Board's staff report
18 as the first proposed plan of action that
19 is capable of developing a reasonable
20 science of offshore wind ecology.

21 The staff report would require the
22 Icebreaker demonstration project to fulfill
23 its ecological purpose of generating
24 necessary and sufficient data to assess the
25 ecological impact of offshore wind energy

1 generation on Lake Erie and to inform the
2 community at large of that impact.

3 We understand that the Icebreaker
4 project is a demonstration project, and as
5 such, its primary purpose is to generate
6 data. The generation of data is a
7 full-time effort, neither seasonal nor
8 part-time, and every effort should be made
9 to continue the collection of data
10 throughout the life of the project.

11 Such is the nature of ecological
12 science, where events take place on a
13 larger scale than we might like, and
14 studies, in order to be worthwhile, must
15 be undertaken over longer time frames.

16 Therefore, BSBO and ABC respectfully
17 request that the Power Siting staff report
18 be implemented without compromise to either
19 the economic or time constraints involved,
20 so as to not dilute and/or render
21 ineffective the staff report's proposed
22 scientific protocols and conditions, for to
23 compromise or limit the staff report would
24 be to undermine fulfilling the project's
25 ecological purpose.

1 We further state that if the staff
2 report is compromised from its current
3 form, as is being inferred by the list of
4 issues filed by Icebreaker with the Siting
5 Board on July 10th, then we withdraw any
6 and all support for the staff report and
7 urge that the procedural schedule be again
8 halted until the impact of revisions can be
9 investigated further.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. ADDISON: Don't be alarmed,
12 they're just turning off these upper
13 lights. We're still going.

14 The next name I have is Mark
15 Shieldcastle.

16 - - - -

17 MARK SHIELDCASTLE of lawful age, being first
18 duly sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

19 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Please
20 state your name and your address for the
21 record.

22 MR. SHIELDCASTLE: My name is Mark
23 Shieldcastle. I live at 5939 North Bodi
24 Road, Oak Harbor, Ohio.

25

1 STATEMENT BY MARK SHIELDCASTLE:

2 Good evening. I'm presently
3 Research Director for the Black Swamp Bird
4 Observatory. I'm retired from the Ohio
5 DNR, Division of Wildlife, with 32 years of
6 service completing my tenure as Project
7 Leader of Wetland Wildlife Research for the
8 State of Ohio. Among my specialties of 45
9 years in the field has been scientific
10 study design and implementation.

11 Black Swamp Bird Observatory's
12 objective has always been to strive for
13 sound science to inform those decisions
14 that the regulatory agencies will have to
15 make.

16 Tonight, my comments will focus on
17 concerns with the staff report, as well as
18 the potential solutions. Overall, the
19 staff report is an impressive document.
20 BSBO appreciates the immense time and
21 effort your staff has put into this report.
22 We are supportive of the concept of the MOU
23 with the ODNR, and with some scientific
24 revisions, we feel the MOU process could
25 become the standard for wind projects in

1 the State of Ohio.

2 Let me quote a passage from the
3 staff report. The primary purpose of the
4 Avian and Bat MOU is to establish a
5 monitoring plan to assess the impacts of
6 construction and operation to avian and bat
7 species and resources.

8 The goals of these assessments
9 relative to this project are, and let me
10 state, we believe these are admirable and
11 appropriate goals.

12 Goal one, to document existing
13 conditions and patterns of use of species
14 of concern at the project site. Goal one
15 cannot be scientifically accomplished with
16 one year of pre- construction data. You
17 can't acquire an average without two years,
18 and you cannot address normality without a
19 minium of three years.

20 To establish a pattern of use, with
21 the variability of migration, requires
22 multiple years. Let's not forget
23 Icebreaker has had a decade to do something
24 right, and it failed miserably. If species
25 of concern here meets the intentions of the

1 Endangered Species Act or the Bald and
2 Golden Eagle Protection Act, then another
3 layer of failure has been added to this
4 project.

5 Very little has been offered in the
6 methodology proposed for this project in
7 the pre-construction phase that can address
8 species of concern, since nothing has been
9 provided to identify species beyond the
10 waterfowl survey. Detection methods can be
11 added, such as infrared camera or telemetry
12 that could get at this question to meet the
13 goal, but so far, they haven't.

14 Goal two, to document changing
15 conditions and patterns of species of
16 concern and their associated habitats as a
17 result of this project. As with pre-
18 construction, post-construction conditions
19 cannot address goal two for the same
20 reasons. Two years of study does not
21 fulfill the goal. If this is really an
22 experiment designed to inform decisions for
23 future considerations, then this experiment
24 should be studied every year of its
25 existence. That is how you acquire the

1 knowledge to achieve the goal. And we
2 won't even get into the mortality study
3 issues.

4 Goal number three, to develop and
5 implement effective mitigation and adaptive
6 management strategies to minimize avian and
7 bat resource impacts. Goal three cannot be
8 achieved until the problems of goal one and
9 goal two have been addressed and resolved
10 with scientific rigor and transparency.

11 Goal four, to evaluate the
12 feasibility of various monitoring protocols
13 in an offshore setting. Goal four is
14 obtainable. If question is, will it be
15 based on scientifically sound sample
16 design.

17 Another passage from the staff
18 report states, The applicant has committed
19 to continue coordination with wildlife
20 agencies through the lifetime of this
21 project to address any bird and bat issues
22 that may arise.

23 If Icebreaker only studies for a
24 couple of years, this commitment is hollow.
25 This experiment should be treated as such,

1 and studied annually at least until
2 variability settles out.

3 We have additional concerns with the
4 staff report and wish to request
5 clarification pertaining to Condition 21.

6 This condition states that if endangered or
7 threatened species are encountered, that
8 they are to be reported to the regulatory
9 agencies. We concur with this condition,
10 but question how is this going to be
11 accomplished.

12 As stated above, no methodology to
13 date has been included by Icebreaker on
14 how they will identify threatened and
15 endangered species over open water during
16 the pre or post-construction operations,
17 which is a requirement under the Endangered
18 Species Act. There are methods available
19 that can address this at least in part, and
20 could meet this need scientifically if done
21 properly.

22 Lastly, there are two segments under
23 Condition 22 that we believe could use
24 additional clarification or changes to meet
25 the goals established by ODNR and the Ohio

1 Power Siting Board.

2 First, sub-condition (a). The
3 condition recommends detection of a ten
4 gram vertebrate. A large percentage of
5 nocturnal migrating songbirds are in the
6 five to ten gram range. From data
7 collected on more than 325,000 birds banded
8 by BSBO research team for the past 30
9 years, 33 percent, one third of all the
10 birds captured are below the ten gram
11 limit, and many are the entire species,
12 while only 500ths of one percent fall below
13 five grams. We recommend this condition to
14 be changed to read five gram minimum.

15 Second, sub-condition (c). We
16 completely concur with the intent of this
17 condition, which defines the conditions and
18 extent for which the radar detection system
19 must be operating. Migration volume and
20 data inference can be heavily biased by
21 only operating under clear nights, as has
22 been done in the past on this and other
23 studies, other projects.

24 Migration is highly variable and is
25 closely associated with specific weather

1 conditions. Where there is strong evidence
2 of directed variability of wildlife
3 activity, it is prudent scientifically to
4 stratify study design. This ensures data
5 collection is representative of reality and
6 is not biased.

7 With 30 years plus of songbird
8 migration data, BSBO can provide
9 information to help develop a sound study
10 design and the scientific support to
11 clarify stratification on wind direction.

12 We recommend that the staff report be
13 clarified to indicate 80 percent or greater
14 of all strata are met.

15 Analysis using stratification data
16 will reduce bias of the whole and will give
17 a truer representative of migration for
18 that season.

19 To get at the goals mentioned as the
20 purpose of this experiment, multiple years
21 must be completed to address multi-year
22 variation.

23 We will be providing these comments,
24 along with additional support, to the Power
25 Siting Board, and we thank you for the

1 opportunity to express our concerns and
2 your willingness to consider sound science
3 for this project.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. ADDISON: The next name I have
6 is John Lipaj.

7 MR. LIPAJ: Lipaj.

8 MS. ADDISON: Lipaj. My apologies.

9 MR. LIPAJ: That's okay.

10 - - - -

11 JOHN LIPAJ of lawful age, being first duly
12 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

13 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

14 Please state your name and address.

15 MR. LIPAJ: John Lipaj, 1525
16 Kingsway, Westlake, Ohio.

17 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

18 MR. LIPAJ: Thank you.

19 STATEMENT BY JOHN LIPAJ:

20 Thank you, Your Honor, and board
21 members. My name is John Lipaj, and I
22 represent the Lake Erie Foundation, a group
23 consisting of approximately 400 members
24 throughout the Lake Erie area.

25 The Lake Erie Foundation's mission

1 is to create and maintain a healthy Lake
2 Erie as defined by drinkable water,
3 recreational contact, and edible fish. We
4 believe that the environmental and economic
5 impacts should be central to any discussion
6 of wind turbines in Lake Erie, as Lake Erie
7 is the source of drinking water for 11
8 million people.

9 The Lake Erie Foundation requests
10 the following:

11 Number one, Icebreaker has been
12 presented to the public as a six turbine
13 wind project. There have been 400 public
14 meetings where LEEDCo has presented to the
15 public six turbines, and have come back and
16 said that they received great approval from
17 the public for only six turbines. Yet
18 there is evidence that the purpose of
19 Icebreaker is to demonstrate the
20 feasibility of generating 5,000 megawatts
21 of electricity on Lake Erie. That would
22 require building 1,400 to 1,500 wind
23 turbines across Lake Erie.

24 A March 3rd, 2017 letter from U.S.
25 Fish and Wildlife to the Executive Director

1 of the Ohio Power Siting Board states,
2 quote, According to the application, this
3 project is proposed as a demonstration-
4 scale project to help assess the potential
5 success for future larger-scale offshore
6 wind farms in Lake Erie and other Great
7 Lakes.

8 He goes on to write, Information
9 gathered from this project will be used to
10 assess the feasibility of developing
11 commercial scale wind facilities in Lake
12 Erie, or the Great Lakes as a whole.
13 That's more than six. Yet the Ohio Power
14 Siting Board Commission's staff report
15 dated July 3rd states, the applicant has
16 indicated that it has no plans for further
17 expansion.

18 So there seems to be some
19 contradictions here that the Lake Erie
20 Foundation would love to see cleared up.
21 We've been led to believe the developers
22 will only build six and then stop, yet in
23 the comments that I will pass out to you,
24 there are a number of references from Ronn
25 Richard, the head of the board, Lorry

1 Wagner, the President, and Dave Karpinski,
2 where they refer to the additional plans
3 that they have for Lake Erie.

4 So the Lake Erie Foundation requests
5 that the Ohio Power Siting Board provide
6 the public with their determination to
7 clarify if the developers will only build
8 six, then stop, or if Icebreaker is being
9 used to justify future wind projects
10 consisting of thousands of wind turbines on
11 Lake Erie, and if it is determined by the
12 Ohio Power Siting Board that this pilot
13 project will be used to justify building
14 the full 1,450, then this project should
15 not move any further in that permitting
16 process.

17 If, however, the Ohio Power Siting
18 Board determines that any of the
19 organizations involved in this application,
20 those being LEEDCo, Icebreaker, or the
21 parent company, Fred Olsen, are absolutely
22 not going to participate in any other
23 further wind projects on Lake Erie, we'll
24 accept that, but we want to see it in
25 writing, signed by all those parties.

1 That's reasonable for the citizens in the
2 State of Ohio, to protect their interests.

3 Number two, LEEDCo has pursued this
4 project as a nonprofit organization, and
5 has received funding accordingly. However,
6 the applicant is Fred Olsen Renewables, a
7 large multi-national corporation based in
8 Norway, the sister company of Fred Olsen
9 Energy, which is a Norwegian oil and gas
10 drilling company.

11 The Lake Erie Foundation requests
12 that a determination be made on the
13 stipulations in the funding that LEEDCo has
14 received should their assets be sold to a
15 for-profit company.

16 We have asked questions about the
17 funding between these two organizations in
18 the past. We've been told that it's
19 confidential. As a nonprofit, we believe
20 that LEEDCo should be providing that
21 information.

22 Number three, potential conflicts of
23 interest exist anytime nonprofit board
24 members are in a position to personally
25 benefit by their actions. Several years

1 ago, New York's Attorney General Andrew
2 Cuomo launched an investigation into
3 alleged corruption between wind energy
4 companies and government officials that
5 included allegations of conflicts of
6 interest and improper influence that
7 surfaced in about a dozen counties. As a
8 result of that investigation, the State of
9 New York passed a law that applies
10 specifically to wind power siting.

11 MR. O'DONNELL: Your Honor, on
12 behalf of Icebreaker, we just want to renew
13 an objection. We're happy to hear
14 testimony, and length is one thing, but
15 when you're testifying about future
16 projects that are not the subject of this
17 application, and you're testifying about
18 what sounds like some investigation in New
19 York that is not related to this project,
20 our objection is really just one of
21 relevance.

22 MR. LIPAJ: I would say that this is
23 completely relevant, because it's referring
24 to wind power siting, and municipal
25 employees that helped that wind power

1 siting, and then received benefits later,
2 which led to a law.

3 MS. ADDISON: Just for the purpose
4 of moving things along and allowing others
5 to have an opportunity to speak, I will ask
6 you to just make your point as to this
7 particular application.

8 MR. LIPAJ: Absolutely.

9 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

10 MR. LIPAJ: So considering that
11 seven of eight, seven of LEEDCo's eight
12 board members are county and city
13 officials, there is a conflict of interest,
14 or a real or perceived conflict of interest
15 that can exist here.

16 To address those concerns, the Lake
17 Erie Foundation asks that a conflict of
18 interest policy similar to the State of New
19 York's Wind Conduct policy be signed by all
20 LEEDCo board members, advisors, and staff.
21 We find that very reasonable.

22 LEEDCo's statements of job creation
23 also need to be weighed against the
24 economic impacts on Lake Erie tourism.
25 Lake Erie tourism spending is \$14 billion a

1 year, and that supports 124,000 jobs.

2 A 2016 study by North Carolina State
3 University documents that 80 percent of
4 respondents would either not come back to
5 the same vacation rental spot if turbines
6 were built offshore, or said they would
7 require such large price discounts that
8 renting at the same location was
9 unrealistic. That study put the economic
10 impact or losses to North Carolina tourism
11 at \$31 million.

12 So if Ohio's Lake Erie tourism
13 creates 124,000 jobs, and we see that this
14 study in North Carolina demonstrates that
15 there are potential for large losses of
16 jobs, but one percent drop in losses -- or
17 jobs in Ohio is 12,000 -- I'm sorry --
18 1,200 jobs. This project, through LEEDCo,
19 is talking about creating 400, 500
20 temporary jobs. We think that that needs
21 to be weighed by the Ohio Power Siting
22 Board.

23 And my last point, what funding is
24 being required for the long-term
25 maintenance and removal if this project

1 fails because of ice, other factors, or
2 they become obsolete? The Lake Erie
3 Foundation requests that funding for
4 long-term maintenance and decommissioning
5 be required to be placed in an escrow
6 account or trust fund for all turbines that
7 are proposed to be built in Lake Erie.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

10 The next name I have is Bryan
11 Ralston.

12 - - - -

13 BRYAN RALSTON of lawful age, being first duly
14 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

15 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Please
16 state your name and address.

17 MR. RALSTON: Bryan Ralston, 1269
18 Bassett Road, Westlake, Ohio, 44145.

19 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

20 STATEMENT BY BRYAN RALSTON:

21 On behalf of the Boating
22 Associations of Ohio, I would like to
23 provide comments regarding the Icebreaker
24 Wind Facility project that would allow for
25 the construction of six wind turbines off

1 of the shores of Lake Erie.

2 Our organization appreciates the
3 thoughtfulness that the Power Siting Board
4 is giving to this important issue by
5 previously halting official hearings on
6 this issue to allow for additional internal
7 review. However, we were disappointed that
8 conditional approval was granted for this
9 project in advance of the public hearing
10 today. In spite of that conditional
11 approval, I am still here today to urge
12 against moving forward with the project.

13 The members of the Boating
14 Associations of Ohio are businesses who
15 market and promote the waterways of Ohio.
16 We are watercraft dealers, marina owners,
17 and boaters ourselves. Lake Erie is
18 without question a crown jewel for Ohio.
19 Our members are committed to being a
20 partner with the state and others
21 interested in the preservation of a healthy
22 Lake Erie. It is with that lens that we
23 evaluated the Icebreaker proposal.

24 As Boating Associations of Ohio
25 members have discussed the issue, we are

1 not convinced that there is enough research
2 and information out there to ensure this
3 project would not have a negative effect on
4 the health of Lake Erie. These turbines
5 could affect wildlife, fishing, water
6 quality, and navigability. There is not
7 enough known about the long-term effect of
8 offshore turbines, and Boating Associations
9 of Ohio does not think Lake Erie should be
10 a testing ground.

11 We also worry that approval of this
12 project could open up a Pandora's box on
13 building or installing additional
14 structures in Lake Erie or other Great
15 Lakes that interfere with clear and open
16 water.

17 While we understand that this
18 project may seem economically appealing, we
19 are not convinced that the long-term impact
20 will be positive. Lake Erie's health
21 cannot be jeopardized for a possible
22 short-term gain. As the state continues to
23 battle the persistent algae blooms that
24 threaten the cleanliness and safety of Lake
25 Erie, it is not wise to introduce

1 additional environmental uncertainty into
2 an already fragile lake.

3 Ohio is already investing billions
4 of dollars to help protect Lake Erie from
5 persistent algae blooms that threaten the
6 vitality of the lake. Our membership
7 cannot understand why the state would
8 support this project without every
9 certainty that the health of Lake Erie will
10 not be jeopardized.

11 We also urge caution on the basis of
12 the economic strengths of the lake. Lake
13 Erie is a tourism and fishing destination
14 for the nation. These wind turbines could
15 irrevocably damage the navigability of
16 portions of the lake, and this is not a
17 gamble we think the state should make.

18 Again, Lake Erie is a crown jewel
19 for Ohio. We urge action against -- we
20 urge against any action that could erode
21 its tremendous value to the great State of
22 Ohio's only Great Lake.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

25 Going forward, if we could just hold

1 applause, I think that might make things go
2 a little quicker. As much as people would
3 like to support a particular speaker, I
4 think it will just help allow us to have a
5 little bit more time on our side.

6 The next name I have is Pat Hersch.

7 - - - -

8 PAT HERSCH of lawful age, being first duly
9 sworn, testified upon her oath as follows:

10 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Please
11 state your name and address.

12 MS. HERSCH: I'm Pat Hersch, I live
13 at 535 Hilltop Road, Erie, Pennsylvania.

14 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

15 STATEMENT BY PAT HERSCH:

16 Having lived my entire life within a
17 couple miles of Lake Erie, I have been
18 following the issue of wind turbines in
19 Lake Erie for some time now. A project of
20 this magnitude requires much public
21 information and participation in the
22 development process. The Icebreaker
23 Windpower Memorandum states, Icebreaker
24 strongly believes in public participation
25 and has gone to great lengths over the past

1 decade to inform the public of the project
2 and answer all questions about the project
3 from its very inception.

4 I find this to be totally untrue.

5 The Icebreaker/LEEDCo project has been
6 fraught with lies, misinformation,
7 omissions, and smoke and mirrors from the
8 very beginning.

9 Last week I spent four days in
10 Madison, Ohio, just east of here, at a four
11 day dog show. Temperatures every day were
12 sweltering in the high 80s and I saw many
13 hot people and many hot dogs. What I
14 didn't see was a single wave on Lake Erie
15 for those four days. It was smooth as
16 glass.

17 The sad reality is that when the
18 demand for electricity is highest to power
19 air conditioners in the area, wind is not
20 there to supply it. Winds in Lake Erie are
21 the weakest in July and August. Just ask
22 any sailor who has sat in the doldrums for
23 hours or days.

24 I was particularly disturbed last
25 fall when I read about Icebreaker's

1 Memorandum Contra to Petition to Intervene
2 by three Cuyahoga County residents which
3 contained vicious attacks on their private
4 lives contending they don't have a right to
5 speak against the project because they
6 don't live directly on shore across from
7 the proposed Icebreaker installation. I am
8 from Erie, Pennsylvania, and I have every
9 right to speak against the Icebreaker
10 project because my drinking water and that
11 of 11 million people comes from Lake Erie.

12 I have every right to protest the
13 audacity of a profit driven company like
14 Fred Olsen Renewables of Norway, which has
15 bought out LEEDCo lock, stock, and barrel,
16 to desecrate any part of the Great Lakes
17 which make up 90 percent of the United
18 States' surface fresh water.

19 I urge the Ohio Power Siting Board
20 to deny the profit-making Icebreaker
21 Windpower a certificate to operate because
22 it is now a foreign company hoping to make
23 a killing by plundering land promised to
24 citizens by the Ohio Public Trust Doctrine.

25 I did attend one of the LEEDCo

1 informational meetings in Cleveland, which
2 turned out to be a question and answer
3 session, again fraught with misinformation.
4 When I asked Mr. Wagner about the ability
5 of turbines to produce electricity when it
6 was needed, he told me that Icebreaker was
7 not about producing energy, it was about
8 determining if Cleveland could become a
9 manufacturing hub for turbine parts. After
10 scratching my head, I asked him what
11 happens to turbines in Lake Erie when their
12 predicted useful life of 15 years was over,
13 and he informed me that the 200 foot blades
14 were recyclable. Not true. They are a
15 composite of fiberglass and resins and
16 cannot be melted or burned without
17 releasing huge amounts of poisonous gas
18 into the atmosphere. A picket fence for
19 Jack and the Beanstalk, perhaps? No, Lake
20 Erie will sadly be burdened with millions
21 of tons of eco junk that will never be
22 removed but will lie in repose at the
23 bottom with the carcasses of the millions
24 of birds and bats they slaughtered.

25 The shoreline of Lake Erie abounds

1 with many sensitive wildlife habitats
2 including those of migratory birds which
3 have returned to the same nesting areas for
4 centuries.

5 Lake turbines will cause these birds
6 to suffer barrier and displacement from
7 preferred habitat, physical habitat loss,
8 and death from blade collision. LEEDCo's
9 paid bird shill says birds will learn to
10 avoid the turbine blades. Really? A bird
11 getting conked on the head with a blade
12 traveling 200 miles per hour is going to
13 die. It's not going to devise a plan to
14 avoid blades in the future.

15 The death of millions of bats is
16 even more grotesque, as they are suffocated
17 by the extreme air pressure at the ends of
18 whirling blades. Birds have been flying
19 through the air over Lake Erie unimpeded
20 for thousands of years. They are hardly
21 going to alter their habitats in a few
22 months. Developers' plans for habitat
23 mitigation are unworkable, and indeed
24 laughable, as they only favor the wind
25 developer. Turbines have rightly been

1 called Cuisinarts of the sky.

2 Transparency? Icebreaker's Contra
3 Petition to Intervene included photoshopped
4 pictures of the horizon line of the lake
5 with turbines looking like little nubs.
6 They don't tell you that the 200 foot
7 blades will be covered with flashing red
8 strobe lights that will detract from the
9 peaceful view of the night sky we have
10 always known.

11 Transparency? I crewed on a 50 foot
12 racing sailboat for several years and know
13 that a lot goes on in the middle of Lake
14 Erie in the middle of the night. Huge
15 freighters crisscross all night long,
16 necessitating foghorns on the turbines,
17 whose blasts will be audible on shore since
18 sound is amplified many times over water.

19 You don't have to be a genius to
20 figure out that turbines are worthless when
21 it comes to maintaining an electrical grid
22 that has to respond instantaneously to
23 energy needs. When I turn on the light, I
24 don't want to wait until the wind blows at
25 just the right speed to perk up a turbine

1 out in the lake. Turbines have a capacity
2 value of zero. Their wind production is
3 spotty, unreliable, unmanageable, and
4 unstorable. They have to be backed up 100
5 percent, 100 percent of the time, by
6 traditional power plants. Would you
7 schedule your open heart surgery at an all
8 wind hospital?

9 I am dismayed at the looming
10 possibility of Icebreaker Windpower's
11 project taking place in Lake Erie and I
12 can't imagine why it is being offered up to
13 destruction at the hands of subsidy sucking
14 wind swindlers.

15 Let Don Quixote and Sancho Panza
16 joust at Icebreaker Windpower's windmills
17 in perpetuity. That's all they're good
18 for.

19 MR. WALSTRA: Carl Scheutzow.

20 - - - -

21 CARL SCHEUTZOW of lawful age, being first
22 duly sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

23 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Please
24 state your name and address.

25 MR. SCHEUTZOW: Yes, my name is Carl

1 Scheutzow, 2853 Franklin Drive, Medina,
2 Ohio.

3 MR. WALSTRA: Go ahead.

4 STATEMENT BY CARL SCHEUTZOW:

5 Before I get into my written
6 statement, I would just like to make a
7 comment. I applaud everybody's energy and
8 passion that they put into this topic. As
9 a Navy veteran, I defend your right to have
10 an opinion, and I also have an opinion.
11 Thank you.

12 Mr. Chairman, Madam Secretary, and
13 members of the Ohio Power Siting Board, I'm
14 here today in full support of the approval
15 to proceed with the construction of the
16 Icebreaker Windpower project.

17 My attendance here today is really
18 threefold. First, I'm representing myself,
19 Carl Scheutzow, as an avid boater and
20 fisherman on Lake Erie for well over 50
21 years.

22 Second, I periodically work as a
23 consultant for a solar power development
24 company advancing clean, renewable
25 electrical power production.

1 And third, I'm also a member of the
2 International Brotherhood of Electrical
3 Workers Local 38 here in Cleveland.

4 I'm extremely familiar with the
5 Central Basin of Lake Erie off the north
6 coast of Cleveland and the potential for
7 tremendous economic and environmental
8 development. As a boater on Lake Erie, I
9 often use the plumes of toxic sulphur gas
10 emitted from the Eastlake and Avon coal
11 fired power plants as a landmark for
12 navigation. Although these plants are not
13 currently operating, there is still power
14 being purchased from other coal fired
15 plants in other areas. Just buying dirty
16 power from other states does not fix the
17 problem.

18 As a quick example, an average
19 railroad car can hold 100 tons of coal.
20 Eastlake coal fired power plant, in its
21 heyday, burned 100 railroad cars of coal
22 each and every day. If you do the math,
23 that's 3,650,000 tons of coal a year. In
24 fact, they installed a system to turn the
25 coal cars upside down to dump the coal out

1 faster because the hopper doors on the
2 bottom of the cars can't empty the coal
3 fast enough to keep the boilers burning.

4 The clean wind power produced by
5 this project has multiple benefits to both
6 our beautiful Lake Erie and its water
7 quality, but also the air quality here in
8 Cleveland. There are numerous reports in
9 the news media on the expansion of
10 renewable wind power not only in the U.S.
11 but across the globe. As stewards of our
12 water and air, we owe it to ourselves and
13 our children to produce clean electrical
14 power, especially when the technology to do
15 so is readily available.

16 Cleveland was hard hit by the last
17 recession that caused record unemployment
18 and foreclosures. As a member of
19 Electrical Workers Local 38, we cannot only
20 see the jobs created from the construction
21 of this project, but the creation of
22 manufacturing jobs here in Cleveland.

23 It was a common saying years ago in
24 Cleveland that Cleveland is the best
25 location in the nation. The history behind

1 that saying is a strong, skilled,
2 productive workforce, transportation
3 system, and infrastructure. All of those
4 items are still here, and the Icebreaker
5 Windpower project can be a catalyst for the
6 rebirth of Cleveland as the best location
7 in the nation.

8 The reality is, we all want
9 electrical power. If you think you don't,
10 when you go home tonight, I want you to
11 turn off the circuit breaker in your
12 electrical panel and I want you to see how
13 long you can keep the electricity off at
14 your house. I'll bet it's not going to be
15 very long.

16 I urge the people of this area and
17 the Ohio Power Siting Board to approve this
18 project not only for the water we drink,
19 the air we breathe, but the jobs created
20 that will allow workers to provide for
21 their families.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to
23 present a 100 percent positive opinion for
24 the approval of the Icebreaker Windpower
25 project.

1 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

2 Tim Kerns. Tim Kerns.

3 Liz McQuaid.

4 - - - -

5 LIZ McQUAID of lawful age, being first duly
6 sworn, testified upon her oath as follows:

7 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

8 Please give your name and address.

9 MS. McQUAID: My name is Liz
10 McQuaid, I live at 4637 West 148th Street,
11 Cleveland, Ohio.

12 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Go ahead.

13 STATEMENT BY LIZ McQUAID:

14 I am an avid Cleveland birder, and
15 I'm a member of such organizations as
16 Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, Kirtland
17 Bird Club, Black Swamp Bird Observatory,
18 Erie Bird Observatory, American Birding
19 Association, and The American Bird
20 Conservancy.

21 I support Black Swamp Bird
22 Observatory and the American Bird
23 Conservancy in their opposition to this
24 Icebreaker project. Lake Erie is in a
25 major migratory flyway. We need

1 sustainable and renewable energy, I agree
2 with that. But I do not believe that this
3 project should go forward putting wind
4 turbines in Lake Erie.

5 I have voiced my opinion in past
6 meetings, and I was told there were no
7 birds out there. Well, I am a volunteer
8 data input for Lights Out Cleveland, which
9 is a combination project of picking up the
10 birds that strike buildings in downtown
11 Cleveland during migration. They go out --
12 our volunteers go out first thing in the
13 morning and collect all the bird strikes.
14 Any ones that are alive, they take to Lake
15 Erie Nature and Science Center and rehab
16 them and release them, and the dead ones go
17 to the bird collection at Cleveland Museum
18 of Natural History.

19 Now, there was about 2,600 birds
20 picked up in the last year, and most of
21 those came from across Lake Erie. There
22 was one day in particular last October when
23 our volunteers, some of our 60 plus
24 volunteers, stood there and watched 250
25 birds hit buildings in downtown Cleveland

1 in one morning, and they were all coming
2 from across the lake. So they cannot tell
3 me that there are no birds out there.
4 There are plenty of birds out there.

5 On the back of this sheet I have a
6 picture of the bird radar, and I do have
7 the link for it on here. The bird radar
8 purposely shows there are birds out on the
9 lake.

10 I just think that this is a very
11 ill-conceived project. I don't think that
12 LEEDCo has been honest. Most of their
13 meetings, public meetings, have been
14 with -- most of the people that I know who
15 would like to attend them are at work. And
16 I think that's very deceptive.

17 Anyway, my Lights Out Cleveland
18 volunteer crew has no way to get out to
19 those wind turbines to pick up any birds
20 that are falling there, so how are they
21 going to tell what the mortality rate
22 really is? You can't pick birds out of the
23 lake once they fall in the water.

24 Anyway, I thank you for letting me
25 speak my piece, and I will hand my paper

1 in. Thank you.

2 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

3 Patrick O'Connor.

4 - - - -

5 PATRICK O'CONNOR of lawful age, being first
6 duly sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

7 MR. WALSTRA: Give your name and
8 address, and go ahead.

9 MR. O'CONNOR: Patrick O'Connor,
10 19001 East Shoreland Avenue, Rocky River,
11 Ohio.

12 STATEMENT BY PATRICK O'CONNOR:

13 I support the Icebreaker wind
14 turbine project because wind power is a
15 job-creating, clean, abundant, and
16 renewable energy source. At 146 meters
17 high, and eight miles offshore, the wind
18 turbines will not present an eyesore on
19 Lake Erie.

20 The Icebreaker project will include
21 measures to safeguard and protect birds and
22 bats as stipulated in the recommended
23 conditions of the certificate written July
24 3rd, 2018 by your staff.

25 I urge the Ohio Power Siting Board

1 to grant approval to move forward on
2 LEEDCo's request to build the Icebreaker
3 wind turbines.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

6 Jim Quigley.

7 - - - -

8 JIM QUIGLEY of lawful age, being first duly
9 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

10 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

11 Give your name and address.

12 MR. QUIGLEY: My name is Jim
13 Quigley. I live at 2076 Revely Avenue in
14 Lakewood, Ohio, 44107.

15 STATEMENT BY JIM QUIGLEY:

16 I am speaking here tonight on behalf
17 of myself and my family. I feel very
18 strongly in supporting the testimony given
19 by both Black Swamp Bird Observatory and
20 the American Bird Conservancy. I feel that
21 this project should not go forward at this
22 time. I think there's been insufficient
23 data gathered to justify this project being
24 pushed forward.

25 One of my biggest complaints is, I'm

1 old enough to remember the Cuyahoga River
2 burning. Many of us here probably remember
3 that, as well. That was an environmental
4 disaster of a huge consequence.

5 The good news is, there was a silver
6 lining. Out of that disaster we got the
7 Clean Water Act, and our rivers and lakes
8 are in much better shape than they were
9 before.

10 My fear, if this project goes
11 forward, there will be another
12 environmental disaster of huge proportions,
13 but there will not be a silver lining this
14 time. There will be losers all around if
15 this project goes forward. First of all,
16 the birds, which is a big concern of mine.
17 Secondly, the City of Cleveland, and
18 Northeast Ohio in general.

19 And quite honestly, I think it will
20 also be a disaster for the wind turbine
21 industry, because the public relations
22 fiasco associated with the failure will be
23 huge and set the wind turbine industry back
24 by many decades.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

2 David Wade.

3 - - - -

4 DAVID WADE of lawful age, being first duly
5 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

6 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

7 Please give your name and address,
8 and go ahead.

9 MR. WADE: David Wade, 401 Bounty
10 Way, Number 227, Avon Lake, Ohio.

11 STATEMENT BY DAVID WADE:

12 I have followed this project for
13 several years and I am unable to form an
14 opinion on it. This has been frustrating
15 due to the lack of facts and details, most
16 of which has been made available in highly
17 emotional -- and you can see from tonight's
18 hearing what I mean by highly emotional.

19 I attended a rather disconcerting
20 presentation on June 27th by Lorry Wagner
21 of LEEDCo. It was disconcerting because
22 questions relating to facts and details
23 were answered with a comment, that is
24 private, and even in one case, that is none
25 of your business.

1 In particular, these items were:

2 Any details of the lease from the
3 Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The
4 ODNR is a state agency. This information
5 should be public knowledge. It was stated
6 by Mr. Wagner this was not public
7 information. Some summary economic
8 information on the lease payment amounts
9 are given on Page 20 of your staff report,
10 but I feel more disclosure is required,
11 such as options, and whatnot, on the lease.

12 Two, the paper has reported that
13 Cleveland Public Power and Cuyahoga County
14 have committed to purchase power from this
15 project. Since these are public entities,
16 the purchase prices should be public
17 knowledge. I was told this was private
18 information. I cited a figure of \$181.57
19 per megawatt hour to Cleveland Public Power
20 quoted in a January 24th, 2018 Plain Dealer
21 article as being, and I am quoting Lorry
22 Wagner, way, way off. What are our public
23 entities paying for this power, and why
24 don't we know?

25 Mr. Wagner alluded to a trust fund

1 for the eventual retirement and removal of
2 the turbines and their apparatus. He
3 refused to give any details. He told me it
4 was none of my business. Your Staff Report
5 of Investigation dated June 3rd -- or
6 July 3rd, Section IV, Recommended
7 Conditions of Certificate, Conditions 31(a)
8 through (h) recommends a performance bond
9 for the full amount of approved
10 decommissioning costs be required. I
11 strongly support this view and ask for the
12 full inclusion of all parts (a) through (h)
13 in the final certificate.

14 In Page 31 of your report, the owner
15 has indicated a willingness to provide an
16 appropriate removal deposit. The
17 performance bond for the full amount of
18 decommissioning has to be better for our
19 citizens than just a deposit. This topic
20 is especially pertinent concerning the
21 bankruptcy of FirstEnergy Solutions and
22 the reported shortage of funds to
23 decommission and remove two northern Ohio
24 nuclear facilities.

25 The mission of the Ohio Power Siting

1 Board is, and I quote in part from your
2 website, our mission is to support sound
3 energy policies for the installation of
4 energy capacity and transmission
5 infrastructure for the benefit of Ohio's
6 citizens. I believe if you are to fulfill
7 your mission, you need to make these facts
8 and details, as well as many others,
9 available to the citizens of Northern Ohio
10 before you put your final approval on the
11 project.

12 Your staff report, on Page 36,
13 indicated that the project will serve the
14 public interest because it fits plans for
15 the regional grid. I think the public
16 interest for sound energy policy, once
17 again from your website, is more than just
18 fitting the grid. It should include
19 details on the economics and a study of the
20 DOE tax money given to this project. Could
21 it have been better spent on another
22 project? In my opinion, any renewable
23 project proposed in Ohio, for anything that
24 anybody can dream of, would be a better use
25 of this money.

1 I urge you to do what is best for
2 the ratepayers and the citizens. Nobody
3 else seems to be concerned about our money.

4 I urge you to use your resources and
5 make a full information disclosure prior to
6 final approval.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

9 Ed Oliveros.

10 - - - -

11 ED OLIVEROS of lawful age, being first duly
12 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

13 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

14 Please give your name, address, and
15 go ahead.

16 MR. OLIVEROS: My name is Ed
17 Oliveros. My address is 11592 Park Moss
18 Avenue, Strongsville, Ohio.

19 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

20 STATEMENT BY ED OLIVEROS:

21 And I want to thank you, thank the
22 board, for having this meeting. It's been
23 very informative, and thank you very much.

24 Let me make a few statements here.

25 This won't take too long.

1 First of all, I support the
2 Icebreaker project. I am definitely a
3 supporter of that.

4 I would like to state that I own a
5 home on the water in Lakewood, and I don't
6 see this project as a threat to that.

7 I am a 35 year boater on Lake Erie,
8 and this is a fabulous lake. And actually,
9 I think that this project will be
10 beneficial in ways, we've heard talk about
11 tourism and (inaudible), and I actually
12 think it might be just the opposite. I
13 know my friends will be anxious to go out
14 and take a look at this magnificent project
15 from my boat.

16 I would like to say that all
17 areas -- not all areas of the United States
18 have the wind resource. We are lucky that
19 we have that wind resource on Lake Erie.

20 I see this project as a great
21 opportunity for this area. To not take
22 advantage of this opportunity would not be
23 forward-thinking. And forward-thinking is
24 something that Northeast Ohio must do.

25 Be careful about misinformation

1 concerning this project. The true facts
2 are compelling for the implementation of
3 this project.

4 Thank you very much.

5 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

6 We've been going for almost two
7 hours now, so we'll take a short break. I
8 want to thank everyone for their patience.

9 We do have petitions outside, if you
10 don't feel you can wait. And you can sign
11 either for or against the application.

12 That will be made part of the record that
13 is reviewed. So if you want to make your
14 mark that way, feel free to do that.

15 That being said, we'll get started
16 here in five, ten minutes.

17 Thank you.

18 - - - -

19 (Short recess had.)

20 - - - -

21 MR. WALSTRA: We're going to get
22 started here.

23 Dan Moore.

24 - - - -

25

1 DAN MOORE of lawful age, being first duly
2 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

3 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

4 Give your name and address, and you
5 can get started.

6 MR. MOORE: My name is Dan T. Moore.
7 I live at 2626 Fairmount Boulevard in
8 Cleveland Heights.

9 STATEMENT BY DAN MOORE:

10 First, thank you for having this,
11 this session here. I am not representing
12 anyone. I'm --

13 A VOICE: We can't hear you.

14 MR. MOORE: Louder?

15 MR. WALSTRA: Try again. I think
16 there's a lot of noise in the hallway.

17 MR. MOORE: I don't represent really
18 anyone. I'm just really representing the
19 Northeastern Ohio residents, and really
20 looking at what's in the public good. I
21 think wind turbines are very valuable in
22 many applications, in applications where
23 you have a lot of wind blowing steadily,
24 and you don't have a big concentration of
25 industry, and where you're sort of

1 disconnected.

2 And I remember going down into the
3 Gobi Desert, and there were hundreds of
4 wind turbines, and they're all spinning
5 furiously, and the wind was howling, and
6 that was a perfect application for wind
7 turbines.

8 But in this particular case, in
9 Cleveland, I don't think this is a good
10 application. And I have six reasons why.

11 The first reason is that we don't
12 seem to need the power now. In other
13 words, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. If
14 you don't need it, don't buy it. So that's
15 agnostic, whether or not -- how the power
16 comes from.

17 And I realize in Columbus, we worry
18 about disaster cases, where we have a
19 sudden need of power. You know, I think we
20 have so much more power than we need up
21 here now, with two big (inaudible) stations
22 on each side of us. I mean, if you
23 compared us to the state of -- to France,
24 we are almost as nuclear in this area as
25 France is.

1 I want to say that I don't
2 represent -- I haven't talked to someone
3 from CEI or FirstEnergy in years, and I
4 don't know anyone from LEEDCo, or whatever
5 the company's name is. So I'm strictly
6 looking at this as a citizen of Cleveland.

7 So first, we don't need the power.
8 So there's no pressing need to go ahead
9 with something that could have detrimental
10 effects.

11 Secondly, the cost of power is
12 incredibly high. I haven't followed this
13 project like a lot of you in the room have,
14 but I had a ceramics plant in Lakewood, and
15 then later, we moved it to Strongsville,
16 and the big power grid out on the lake that
17 was being looked at, at that time, did not
18 produce enough power for my factory, my
19 factory, by itself, which I found to be
20 ridiculous, because it was almost a hundred
21 million dollar cost.

22 Now, I'm sure things have gotten
23 more efficient now, but people don't
24 understand how much power an industrial
25 organization uses. I mean, it's phenomenal

1 how much we need to have.

2 The nuclear plant now, the nuclear
3 plant -- I used to be involved in the
4 nuclear industry. The variable cost of
5 nuclear power, you know, it's less than two
6 cents. Two cents, you know. So it's
7 incredibly cheap.

8 Now, obviously there's the
9 transmission cost and the overhead of
10 keeping the nuclear plants alive. But wind
11 energy in Cleveland is never going to
12 compete economically, it's just not close
13 to being there.

14 And I mentioned the output. These
15 don't produce the kind of output that some
16 of our big factories use. If you've ever
17 seen steel melted, you know, with a carbon
18 stick, it's an enormous amount of energy.

19 So I'm saying, if we had an energy
20 problem, this six or five -- or even 65
21 meter blades are not going to make a
22 significant impact.

23 The next is the cost of
24 construction. To really ensure this
25 project -- and I'm sure this has been done

1 in some way -- but you have to ensure the
2 project. And we have a crib out here,
3 95 miles out, or 93 miles out, and this is
4 a big stone operation. That is what you
5 need when the big ice problem happens.

6 You've got 60 miles of fetch on the
7 lake in one direction, and a hundred miles,
8 almost a hundred miles in the other
9 direction. So when the wind's blowing four
10 feet thick ice, you've got to have a big
11 structure.

12 And I think that that is extremely
13 expensive. And when you look at the cost
14 of a regular wind turbine, there are
15 marginal (inaudible) in this area, you
16 know, inland, you wouldn't be able to make
17 the numbers work. And to put it out on the
18 lake and have to fortify it, with a lake
19 that goes up and down six feet, you can't
20 have a simple archway like that, with
21 steel, you've got to put up a real
22 structure in place.

23 And the next point is how you pay
24 for it. Now, you know, in the past, they
25 had to buy 25 percent of energy -- of

1 recyclable power, it was an edict by law.

2 That just means that the cost is

3 transferred to us.

4 And we're an industrial city. The
5 fastest growing component of this city is
6 manufacturing. And it's growing faster
7 than the medical industry, and anything
8 else.

9 We depend on power. And we have
10 inexpensive power. I mean, people will
11 argue with that. The Canadians would argue
12 with that. But you know, we're paying
13 five, six cents for power, industrial
14 power, and that's pretty reasonable.

15 So I guess those are the main
16 points. We don't need it, it's expensive,
17 we're not sure we've figured out the
18 structure of how we're building this thing.
19 And that hasn't been done before, so you've
20 got to be real careful. This isn't the
21 North Sea, or it's not the wind turbines
22 you see when you're sailing Newport,
23 Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket. This is a
24 different deal.

25 Now, I'm also -- and I hear a lot of

1 comments today, talking about wind turbines
2 as an industrial policy, we'll decide what
3 Cleveland is going to be good at.

4 Well, I know a little bit about the
5 wind turbine industry, and there's a heck
6 of a lot of stuff that comes from China.
7 So it's an open market.

8 Obviously, you can't ship blades
9 very well. But the other stuff, it gets
10 shipped very easily. So don't count on
11 this to be the bolster of a new economy for
12 Cleveland.

13 Now, I'm also Commissioner of the
14 Metropark, and I'm not speaking on behalf
15 of the Metropark, I'm speaking as a private
16 citizen.

17 But I also have an office in Key
18 Tower, and the lady that spoke about the
19 birds, there, you go in there early in the
20 morning, and I hope no one in this room has
21 to come to work as early as I do sometimes,
22 but you come in in the morning, and down at
23 the bottom of the building, down at the
24 bottom, you see songbirds. So that is
25 true.

1 And obviously, we now are doing a
2 lot of things on the lakefront, and I'm not
3 sure I'd like to see, you know -- that
4 wouldn't be real pretty for me.

5 But I'm not arguing the point of the
6 visuals and the birds. I'm arguing the
7 point we just don't need this.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

10 David Nader.

11 - - - -

12 DAVID NADER of lawful age, being first duly
13 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

14 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

15 Please give your name and address,
16 and then go ahead.

17 MR. NADER: David Nader, 11407
18 Clifton Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio, 44102.

19 STATEMENT BY DAVID NADER:

20 My name is David Nader, I'm a
21 Community Outreach Coordinator for the
22 Cuyahoga County Department of
23 Sustainability. I'd like to enter into the
24 record, if I can, a unanimous resolution by
25 Cuyahoga County Council in support of this

1 project, and I'd like the same for myself.

2 Ohio depends on fossil fuels for
3 80 percent of its energy needs. Clean
4 energy accounts for three percent.
5 Cleveland is one of the most polluted
6 cities in the country. It's been named an
7 asthma capital. It's the 15th most
8 difficult city to live in if you have
9 asthma.

10 This is a demonstration project.
11 It's six turbines. It's not 1,400
12 turbines. If it's feasible, it might be.

13 And you know, no one could have
14 imagined anyone going -- using a privately
15 owned spacecraft to launch satellites when
16 NASA began, with NASA subsidies, a lot of
17 spending years ago. You have to start
18 somewhere, and it's better to do it now
19 than to wait until we do need it.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

22 Fred Hunger.

23 - - - -

1 FRED HUNGER of lawful age, being first duly
2 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

3 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

4 Please give your name and address.

5 MR. HUNGER: Fred Hunger, 20160
6 Parkside Drive, Rocky River, Ohio.

7 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Go ahead.

8 STATEMENT BY FRED HUNGER:

9 So I'm going to just speak, and I
10 only have four quick points.

11 I want to talk about the public
12 trust doctrine again. I understand it's,
13 you know, the lake -- Lake Erie, the Great
14 Lakes are -- they're protected by federal
15 law, and the federal law cedes that right
16 to the states that surround the Great
17 Lakes.

18 So in Ohio, it's held in trust.
19 It's held -- title held in trust for the
20 people of the state that they may enjoy the
21 navigation of the waters, carry on commerce
22 over them, and have the liberty to fish
23 therein, free from the obstruction or
24 interference of private parties.

25 It seems to me, through everything

1 that I've read, and what I've heard
2 tonight, that there has been an effective
3 sale from LEEDCo to windmill -- Icebreaker
4 Windpower, Fred Olsen Renewables.

5 And that's sort of -- with LEEDCo
6 being a public entity, I don't understand
7 why this issue is not transparent. It's
8 deceptive.

9 And I believe that this issue of
10 putting potentially 1,400 wind turbines on
11 the Great Lakes, and having it not owned by
12 a government entity, is an issue for the
13 citizens of Northeast Ohio, and I think it
14 should be frankly a matter of public vote,
15 not some crafty amendment to a lease that
16 was done time and time again, it's
17 transferred several times. That's point
18 one.

19 Point two, LEEDCo talks about the
20 creation of jobs. Like Dan just mentioned,
21 we're not going to become a manufacturer of
22 wind turbines. This is a very mature
23 industry. These things are made around the
24 world. Some are made here in the U.S., but
25 we're not going to all of a sudden pop up

1 companies making wind turbines.

2 And they can be effectively shipped.

3 If these happen, I guarantee you, these
4 will come in from overseas on ships. Yes,
5 there will be temporary jobs here in Ohio,
6 in Cleveland, the Port of Cleveland, tug
7 companies.

8 Friends of mine would benefit from
9 this. We could potentially stand to gain.
10 But they're temporary jobs. Once they're
11 up and spinning, there's not a lot of job
12 creation. It's very temporary.

13 And then when we talk about jobs,
14 you have to think about what's happened
15 elsewhere. And I point to Sherri's good
16 testimony, look what happened in Ontario, a
17 vibrant industry, raised -- higher energy
18 costs, has driven jobs out of the region,
19 way more impactful in a negative way than
20 whatever temporary jobs this project will
21 bring.

22 The cost of it, also, I wanted to
23 say for the citizens of Northeast Ohio, the
24 hardworking people that are paying month to
25 month of their paychecks, they cannot

1 afford to subsidize electricity rates that
2 are four times higher than we're currently
3 paying. That's what the open market is for
4 wind, and there's no reason to pay more
5 when we don't need it.

6 Dan was right, we don't need this
7 power. We don't need it. We have natural
8 gas, we have nuclear power plants. This is
9 spending money foolishly.

10 And then lastly, I haven't heard
11 anyone talk about air safety. And there's
12 a lot of research on the East Coast, in
13 Canada, I believe some other people have
14 submitted to the record expert testimony
15 about the issue of the effect of turbines
16 on radar.

17 And there's companies that serve
18 Burke Lakefront Airport, that bring in
19 people that are, you know, in medical
20 situations. There's companies that feed
21 people into the Cleveland Clinic. And
22 frankly, I think not only Burke Lakefront,
23 but also at Hopkins, the issue of radar in
24 flight paths, and these things are almost
25 500 feet in the air, spinning.

1 I believe the Ohio Power Siting
2 Board must further vet the issue of radar,
3 the impacts on radar. And this is a
4 serious issue that has not been properly
5 vetted by the board.

6 That is it. Thank you very much.

7 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

8 MS. ADDISON: I would just like to
9 again note that we do have petitions
10 available with staff out in the hallway
11 where you signed up to testify. If you'd
12 like to just sign the petition in support
13 or in opposition of this project, and
14 basically agree with the testimony that's
15 been provided this evening, you may do so.

16 And you also have the availability
17 to provide any comments to the board via
18 our docketing website, and staff will be
19 more than happy to explain that process to
20 you, as well.

21 Next up we have John Yingling.

22 - - - -

23 JOHN YINGLING of lawful age, being first duly
24 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

25 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

1 Please state your name and address.

2 MR. YINGLING: My name is John
3 Yingling, 3769 East Surrey Court, Rocky
4 River, Ohio, 44116.

5 STATEMENT BY JOHN YINGLING:

6 This evening I stand before you in
7 support of the LEEDCo project Icebreaker as
8 a lifelong boater. Over the last several
9 months I have been disturbed by what the
10 opposition has printed, talked about over
11 the airwaves, and stated to the general
12 public. Many are -- they are spreading
13 misleading facts, fear, and incorrect
14 statements.

15 They stated that the wind turbines
16 will be one mile off the Cleveland water
17 intake crib. This is inaccurate. Although
18 this evening, they amended that to say it's
19 now three miles.

20 If you actually plot the location of
21 the towers, you'll find that the nearest
22 wind turbine is 4.1 statute miles at a
23 magnetic bearing of 330 degrees from the
24 crib. So it's not one mile, it's not three
25 miles.

1 In a March letter they stated, wind
2 turbines are proven to kill thousands of
3 birds every month. I question whether that
4 is worldwide.

5 Later on in the letter, they said,
6 quote, thousands of rotting carcasses each
7 month due to the safety of our drinking
8 water. Thus they were inclined that this
9 was a LEEDCo project that will be killing
10 thousands of birds every month, 12,000 a
11 year.

12 They reference the Altamont Pass
13 Wind study as proof of all these birds
14 being killed. Well, what they didn't
15 realize is that the study is obsolete.
16 It's 35 years old. It was at a time when
17 the last towers were being used and
18 rotation of blades were significantly
19 faster than they are today.

20 For years, manufacturers have only
21 used monopole towers, which completely
22 eliminate the roosting of the birds and
23 related kill. Referring back to the study,
24 it's obsolete.

25 If you observe the rotational speed

1 of the blades at Lincoln Electric, you'll
2 find it is well below 35 -- 34 rpms, and I
3 expect the Vestas-V-136 will have a lower
4 speed due to its size. This is purely
5 physics, purely physics, the rotational
6 speed.

7 Several times they mentioned the
8 dead zone in relation to fish kill which
9 has recently been reported in the news.
10 However, the dead zone is caused by
11 agricultural run-off in the western basin
12 due to the depletion of oxygen in the lake,
13 not the disturbance of the lake sediment.
14 They are confusing and frightening the
15 public.

16 They believe the dredging of the
17 power cables will stir up sediment from the
18 Cuyahoga River years ago, which was filled
19 with hazards, and that hazard was not
20 dumped in the lake. The dredging spoils
21 were and continue to be placed in a
22 confined disposal facility along the
23 lakefront. Thus, the trenching for the
24 power cables will not stir up environmental
25 hazards from the river.

1 We've heard a lot of discussion
2 about the observed size of the wind
3 turbines off Lake Erie -- I'm sorry -- off
4 Edgewater Park. The opposition published a
5 picture of 36 wind turbines that were
6 larger than a swimmer's head. This will be
7 submitted.

8 This is wrong. The observed size of
9 the turbines, with the blades, from
10 Edgewater Park will be about the size of
11 your pinky held out at arm's length
12 (indicating). More precisely, a 497 foot
13 tall structure at a distance of 7.1 statute
14 miles will be about the size of a quarter
15 of an inch to five sixteenths of an inch
16 held at arm's length. Plus this photograph
17 shows 36 turbines. Here this evening,
18 we're here to discuss about six.

19 In response to the lake -- in
20 response to the turbines making the lake
21 look like an airport, although not
22 discussed this evening, it has been brought
23 up, with all their beacons.

24 I suggest that they review the U.S.
25 Department of Transportation FAA Advisory

1 Circular, Obstruction Markings and
2 Lighting, dated 12 of 2015. It requires an
3 endpoint of the turbine fields to have a
4 2,000 candela beacon. So at a distance of
5 eight statute miles, the beacon will have a
6 diminished value to 12 micro lux.

7 What is a micro lux? Well, it's not
8 much. If you compare it to the star
9 Sirius, which has a value of 8.17 micro
10 lux, you'll see that it's not much. And
11 this airport lighting that the opposition
12 talks about is really like a few more stars
13 in the night sky. Another comparison is
14 the tiny lightning bug, which at 10 feet
15 will be significantly brighter than the
16 beacons.

17 The opposition stated that the
18 Icebreaker turbines have 400 gallons of
19 lubricants in a letter, and stated that
20 wind turbines leak thousands of gallons of
21 lubricant every year. I don't know where
22 these facts come from. I disagree with
23 them.

24 The large Stamco wind turbine out in
25 Euclid has 55 gallons of oil lubricant, and

1 on occasion, when filters are changed,
2 makeup oil is added. However, in the last
3 12 months, there's been no added oil to
4 these turbines.

5 MS. ADDISON: Mr. Yingling I'm so
6 sorry. In order to provide others, if you
7 could just conclude.

8 MR. YINGLING: In conclusion --

9 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

10 MR. YINGLING: -- the opposition is
11 objecting to the project with inaccurate
12 facts, which is frightening. The Ohio
13 Power Siting Board must vet all statements
14 for scientific accuracy.

15 If the opposition is objecting to
16 the project because they don't want them in
17 their backyard, then it becomes a NIMBY
18 project -- a NIMBY issue. However, let's
19 make sure that the facts are accurately
20 stated and the public is not misled.

21 Thank you for your time.

22 MS. ADDISON: The next name I have
23 is Sarah Taylor.

24 And again, if you could please
25 refrain from applauding after every

1 speaker, I think that will move things
2 along a little quicker.

3 - - - -

4 SARAH TAYLOR of lawful age, being first duly
5 sworn, testified upon her oath as follows:

6 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

7 Please state your name and your
8 address.

9 MS. TAYLOR: Sarah Taylor, 2894
10 Meadowbrook, Cleveland Heights, 44118.

11 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

12 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you.

13 STATEMENT BY SARAH TAYLOR:

14 The growing excitement for offshore
15 wind development on the Great Lakes is
16 great to see. William Friedman, of the
17 Cleveland - Cuyahoga County Port Authority,
18 has announced that they have identified the
19 likely staging area to handle the massive
20 foundation structures for the wind
21 turbines. In Europe, ports with heavy
22 capacity dock structure are key elements in
23 their offshore wind industry.

24 It's also wonderful that the growing
25 number of national figures are providing

1 strong endorsements for offshore wind on
2 Lake Erie. Michael Mann, world famous
3 climate scientist, says that the Icebreaker
4 project has an excellent chance of being
5 the first of many offshore wind-powered
6 installations on the Great Lakes. These
7 will result not only in a reduction of
8 greenhouse gas emissions, but also in a big
9 increase in job-creating manufacturing
10 centers throughout the region.

11 Regarding the opposition to offshore
12 wind power on the Great Lakes, the vast
13 majority is coming from those associated
14 with the production of electrical energy
15 using older technologies. In Ohio, it is
16 the fossil fuel industry, which currently
17 supplies about 85 percent of the state's
18 electrical power, while across Lake Erie,
19 at Lake Ontario -- excuse me -- in Ontario,
20 where much of the opposition to Icebreaker
21 is actually coming from, it is nuclear
22 energy which dominates the province's
23 electrical supply.

24 The commercial motivation for this
25 opposition is concealed behind expressions

1 of "environmental concerns". These
2 contrived worries are disguised so that
3 they appear to originate from genuine
4 organizations. However, what is happening
5 here is a prime example of what is known as
6 Astroturfing. This is the practice of
7 hiding the sponsors of messages by making
8 it appear as though they come from real
9 grassroots participants.

10 This is an extremely effective way
11 of arousing fear of wind power among the
12 public. The websites of the phony
13 organizations often list no staff and no
14 board members. They just display the usual
15 fabrications about hazards to birds and
16 bats and fishes. These falsehoods are
17 endlessly repeated, as you can see tonight,
18 despite decades of evidence showing these
19 accusations to be completely baseless.

20 Worse than that, these newly formed
21 "environmental" groups, such as the North
22 American Platform Against Windpower,
23 National Wind Watch, Great Lakes Wind
24 Truth, mostly based in Canada, attack
25 long-established environmental groups.

1 They accuse the Sierra Club, Greenpeace,
2 and the Audubon Society of endorsing wind
3 power projects only if they are paid large
4 sums for performing further environmental
5 studies. Another accusation is that green
6 energy financiers have bribed respected
7 environmental organizations for
8 enthusiastic publicity of their companies'
9 efforts.

10 Another false accusation concerns
11 the effects of turbine structures on fish
12 populations. It has been shown that fish
13 are actually attracted to submerged wind
14 tower bases, and fish populations increase.
15 Despite this evidence, the Astroturfers
16 encourage fishermen to believe that fish
17 are scared away from wind turbines.

18 I am the founder of Windustrious
19 Cleveland, which has been working for the
20 past 12 years to gather national as well as
21 local support for this offshore wind power
22 project. It is thrilling to see the great
23 progress that Icebreaker has made so far.

24 In conclusion, Cleveland has a proud
25 history of industrial pioneers who turned

1 our city into a center of manufacturing
2 innovation. Icebreaker continues that
3 tradition. We will be doing the world and
4 ourselves a great service when we make use
5 of the bounteous supply of wind energy all
6 across our Great Lakes. The sooner that
7 Icebreaker can begin that process, with the
8 insertion of those initial six graceful,
9 silent, beautiful turbines, the better we
10 all will be.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. ADDISON: The next name I have
13 is Jason Ocepek.

14 - - - -

15 JASON OCEPEK of lawful age, being first duly
16 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

17 MS. ADDISON: Please state your name
18 and address.

19 MR. OCEPEK: Jason Ocepek, 13862
20 Starlite Drive, Brook Park, Ohio, 44142.

21 STATEMENT BY JASON OCEPEK:

22 My name is Jason Ocepek, and I am
23 the Director of Sales for the Candlewood
24 Suites hotel in North Olmsted. We support
25 Icebreaker Wind because this project will

1 bring a new industry with new opportunities
2 for hospitality and trade industries,
3 especially during design, construction,
4 installation, and maintenance, and we ask
5 that you please support Icebreaker Wind.

6 For the record, too, I would like to
7 read what is up on the wall there.
8 Cleveland is a city that has achieved
9 preeminence in industry, commerce, and
10 culture through enterprise of men and women
11 who exercise scientific knowledge,
12 inventive genius, productive labor, and
13 wise management, taking advantage of their
14 favorable location on the greatest of all
15 inland waterways and the proximity of rich
16 mineral resources.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. ADDISON: Thank you very much.

19 Stephen Love.

20 - - - -

21 STEPHEN LOVE of lawful age, being first duly
22 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

23 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

24 Please state your name and address.

25 MR. LOVE: Thank you.

1 Stephen Love, 4 Villa Beach,
2 Cleveland, Ohio, 44110.

3 STATEMENT BY STEPHEN LOVE:

4 And thank you, Honorable Judge,
5 thank you Presiding Judges this evening.
6 I'm the Program Officer with The Cleveland
7 Foundation, Program Officer for the
8 environment. Additionally, I've been
9 nearly a lifelong Lake Erie resident, right
10 along the coastline. I'm an avid kayaker,
11 swimmer, I do a lot of fishing, I enjoy
12 many a sunset and certainly many a winter
13 scene over the lake.

14 I'd first like to invite my
15 colleagues from The Cleveland Foundation to
16 stand and show support for the project.
17 They've been waiting patiently.

18 Thank you.

19 Now, I'd like you to envision wind
20 turbines on Lake Erie producing clean
21 energy for our region. That's the vision
22 The Cleveland Foundation helped to
23 jumpstart nearly 12 years ago, to catalyze
24 a new, clean offshore wind industry for
25 Cleveland and the whole region.

1 Today, Icebreaker Wind is closer
2 than ever before to becoming a reality, the
3 product of a strong public - private
4 partnership led by the Lake Erie Energy
5 Development Corporation supported by the
6 City of Cleveland, The Cleveland
7 Foundation, Port of Cleveland, Cuyahoga,
8 Lake, Ashtabula, and Lorain counties, as
9 well as Erie County, Pennsylvania.

10 The project is being developed under
11 the strictest environmental regulations and
12 reviews by 14 local, state, and federal
13 agencies, including this process this
14 evening, and has the endorsement of
15 environmental groups including the Sierra
16 Club, the Environmental Defense Fund, and
17 the Ohio Environmental Council.

18 Project Icebreaker will set
19 Cleveland apart as a leader in clean energy
20 in the Great Lakes, generating new jobs
21 that will help protect the water quality of
22 Lake Erie, the source of all of our
23 drinking water here tonight.

24 Reducing the amount of the power
25 demand from coal fired power plants reduces

1 heavy metals like mercury from going into
2 Lake Erie. We all know that mercury
3 negatively impacts fish and other aquatic
4 wildlife, fish consumption in lakes and
5 rivers across the country, and is one of
6 the most harmful substances for human brain
7 development.

8 Additionally, reducing demand from
9 coal fired power plants also reduces
10 particulate air pollution, the microscopic
11 pieces of soot that are the by-products of
12 fossil fuels from power plants, factories,
13 and automobiles. Particulate pollution is
14 considered the most harmful form of air
15 pollution because the particulates bypass
16 the body's defenses and can be inhaled
17 deeply into the lungs. According to the
18 American Lung Association, soot increases
19 the risk of early death and serious health
20 problems such as asthma and cardiovascular
21 disease.

22 And although all cities in Ohio
23 continue to show progress in reducing
24 pollution, the American Lung Association's
25 State of the Air report in 2017 reveals the

1 Cleveland area lags behind most of the
2 state and other parts of the country,
3 ranking ninth worst in soot pollution, and
4 certainly mostly adversely impacting our
5 vulnerable communities, particularly
6 communities of color locally.

7 In addition to improving public
8 health outcomes, Project Icebreaker also
9 represents an amazing potential to create a
10 new industry, accompanied by thousands of
11 jobs. We all know Northeast Ohio needs to
12 be innovative and forward-thinking if we
13 are to grow. And right now, we're falling
14 behind.

15 Just look at the economic growth
16 data that came out earlier this year.
17 Cincinnati's economy grew by 4.3 percent,
18 the Columbus economy grew even faster, but
19 Cleveland, only 2.1 percent. We're far
20 behind Columbus and Cincinnati in job
21 creation and lagging in private capital
22 investments.

23 We believe the offshore wind energy
24 sector is one way to change Cleveland's
25 economic trajectory. It's exploding

1 worldwide and domestically. For example,
2 it was mentioned earlier there's more than
3 \$7 billion in offshore wind farms planned
4 for the East Coast of the U.S. alone.

5 Project Icebreaker will help
6 catalyze future fresh water wind projects
7 and could make Ohio a leader in the
8 offshore and manufacturing and marine
9 construction supply chains that will be
10 needed for such a project here and on the
11 East Coast of the United States.

12 Already, more than 275 area
13 companies in Ohio have registered to be
14 part of the project, some of whom are here
15 this evening, including local manufacturers
16 and electrical and marine construction
17 companies.

18 The project is supported by many
19 local labor unions, as well, including the
20 Ironworkers, International Brotherhood of
21 Electrical Workers, Cleveland Building &
22 Construction Trades Council, which
23 represents 17 craft unions, and others.
24 Hopefully they are here tonight, as well.

25 Finally, it's worth noting that the

1 recent images of turbines circulated
2 grossly misrepresent the visibility of the
3 turbines from the shoreline due to its
4 location eight miles and beyond offshore.
5 Project Icebreaker will not be visible from
6 the shoreline 80 percent of the time, and
7 when it is visible, will appear
8 significantly smaller than the water intake
9 crib located five miles offshore. Offshore
10 wind turbines are far more visible in many
11 shoreline communities in other parts of the
12 world, particularly Northern Europe, and in
13 those locations, they're viewed as assets,
14 both aesthetically, economically, and
15 environmentally.

16 In closing, Project Icebreaker
17 represents part of building an exciting
18 future for Northeast Ohio and the entire
19 Great Lakes region, positioning Cleveland
20 as a center for renewable energy
21 exploration and development.

22 And it is with that, that I
23 encourage the board to approve the
24 project.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. ADDISON: The next person I have
2 is Stephen Lau.

3 Mr. Love, you remind me, if you do
4 have a written copy of your testimony,
5 please leave it for the court reporter.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. LAU: My name is Stephen Lau.

8 MS. ADDISON: Stephen Lau. I
9 apologize.

10 MR. LAU: And Stephen Love was just
11 before me signing in.

12 - - -

13 STEPHEN LAU of lawful age, being first duly
14 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

15 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Please
16 state your name and address for the record.

17 MR. LAU: My name is Steven Lau, the
18 last name is L-A-U, at 3120 Falmouth Road,
19 Shaker Heights, Ohio.

20 STATEMENT BY STEPHEN LAU:

21 I'm going to be very brief. I think
22 the question on the table tonight is
23 leadership, leadership among the people
24 that are studying the issues night and day
25 to come up with answers for the people that

1 have criticized the Icebreaker project, as
2 well as those who have -- who are in
3 support of it.

4 So I wanted to say thank you very,
5 very much to the Ohio Power Siting Board
6 for their dedication, their openness, their
7 transparency, and their willingness to
8 listen to both sides.

9 I support The Cleveland Foundation's
10 view of this, and the arguments there.
11 However, if the Commission decides that
12 this doesn't make sense for the economy, if
13 it doesn't make sense environmentally, or
14 if they have any reason to say no, then I'm
15 in support of that.

16 So thank you. Would you please pass
17 on my appreciation -- and I'm talking
18 about, as a citizen, I've lived in this
19 community for 70 years, a little bit more,
20 and I'm a very big booster of Cleveland's
21 development, and issues like this need the
22 type of debate that has gone on, and the
23 leadership that the Commission and the city
24 has taken has been just wonderful to see.
25 So thank you all very much.

1 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

2 Mr. Don Crane.

3 And for those that wanted an update
4 on the number that we are on, it's Number
5 26.

6 - - - -

7 DON CRANE of lawful age, being first duly
8 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

9 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Please
10 state your name and your address.

11 MR. CRANE: Don Crane, 2554 East
12 22nd Street, Cleveland.

13 STATEMENT BY DON CRANE:

14 The first thing I'd like to do real
15 quick, will the members of the Cleveland
16 building trades that are here in support
17 please stand up real quick.

18 I serve in the capacity in
19 Youngstown, Ohio as the President of the
20 building trades for 15 years. And we had
21 the project, so I have just two quick
22 points.

23 We had the project, it's the second
24 largest project in ODOT's history, on an
25 extremely large body of water, drinking

1 water. And that project required tugs,
2 barges, 150 ton cranes to work off of those
3 barges. And that project, because of the
4 expertise of the building trades craftsmen
5 and women that were on that project, there
6 was not one spill during the construction
7 of that job. It was the Meander
8 Bridge/Route 80 project. I would invite
9 anybody in the room to take a look at that.

10 But secondly, we look at the
11 Icebreaker project as an opportunity of a
12 lifetime. I am President of Millwright
13 Pile Driver Local 1090 and have been for
14 nearly 20 years. And this opportunity that
15 we're about to have with this project, it
16 not only comes in the form of the jobs that
17 are created for the journeymen and women
18 and apprentices that will be on the
19 project, but it comes in the form of
20 opportunities for disadvantaged workers
21 that may have lost their jobs in other
22 places, opportunities for disadvantaged
23 youth that may not have that opportunity,
24 whether it's in inner city schools, or just
25 kids that aren't college bound, and aren't

1 going to the military, the building trades

2 is absolutely the best spot to land.

3 The other opportunities are the
4 suppliers. And not only during the
5 construction that will be done out on the
6 water, but these products and these
7 components need to be received, they need
8 to be accounted for, they need to be
9 prepped for final construction, and
10 literally each and any -- each individual
11 craft of the 17 crafts of the building
12 trades will touch this project in one form
13 or another.

14 And that's crucial, because the
15 building tradesmen and women work
16 themselves out of a job. You have to have
17 a job to go to. So to have a project like
18 this, as much as I -- you know, I'll
19 sympathize for a moment with the bird
20 people, because I love chicken at my mom's
21 on Sundays, and I love Thanksgiving, but
22 I've got to level with you, to have extinct
23 building trades members in Cleveland, Ohio
24 isn't going to help anyone out.

25 I stand before you in full support

1 of this project, and I represent the
2 building trades behind me, and the ones out
3 in the field that are working hard to build
4 this city.

5 Thanks.

6 MS. ADDISON: John Grabner. John
7 Grabner.

8 Rosanne Potter.

9 - - - -

10 ROSANNE POTTER of lawful age, being first
11 duly sworn, testified upon her oath as follows:

12 MS. ADDISON: Thank you. Please
13 state your name and address.

14 MS. POTTER: Rosanne Potter, 1300
15 Bridget Lane, Twinsburg Ohio 44087.

16 STATEMENT BY ROSANNE POTTER:

17 Your Honor, I will keep my comments
18 brief and to the point.

19 First, let me say that I also work
20 for The Cleveland Foundation and am in full
21 support of this Icebreaker project.

22 In April of 2018, the Bureau of
23 Labor Statistics reported that the
24 unemployment rate in metro Cleveland is
25 5.4 percent, which is over 30 percent

**Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018
PUCO Hearing**

140

1 higher than the national average of
2 4.1 percent, and 15 percent higher than the
3 rest of Ohio, which is at 4.7 percent.

4 The Icebreaker project will create
5 approximately 600 jobs in Cleveland, and
6 you don't need to be a rocket scientist to
7 understand we need jobs, we need clean
8 energy.

9 Thank you very much, Your Honor. I
10 support Ice Breaker.

11 MS. ADDISON: Cameron Ondrey.

12 MS. ONDREY: Pass.

13 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

14 Jim Embrescia. Jim Embrescia.

15 MR. WALSTRA: Joanne Scudder.

16 - - - -

17 JOANNE SCUDDER of lawful age, being first
18 duly sworn, testified upon her oath as follows:

19 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

20 Give your name, address, and begin.

21 MS. SCUDDER: I'm Joanne Scudder,
22 and my address is 10234 Log Cabin Court,
23 Brecksville, Ohio.

1 STATEMENT BY JOANNE SCUDDER:

2 I would like to thank you for this
3 opportunity to speak, and for the
4 opportunity you give everyone, no matter
5 what their opinions are, to do so. It's a
6 great service.

7 I was here back in November. I
8 spoke longer, so I'll be brief tonight.

9 I'm the Director of Sustainability
10 for the Cuyahoga County Agricultural
11 Society, and maybe the only person in this
12 room that actually manages a wind turbine.
13 We have a 500 kW wind turbine on our
14 fairgrounds. We partnered with the county
15 in 2009 and received a million dollars of
16 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
17 money to put up a wind turbine on the
18 fairgrounds. They were so excited about
19 the project they built a 2,000 square foot
20 energy education center, and to my
21 knowledge, we are one of the very few
22 facilities that has a wind turbine and an
23 education center there on the grounds, so
24 that you can come and see the wind turbine,
25 go into the exhibit center, utilize

1 realtime data, take a look and interact
2 with the exhibits, and learn more about
3 clean, renewable wind energy.

4 I am here to definitely support the
5 Icebreaker project. I will tell you that
6 when we first started the hearing process
7 in Middleburg Heights for our turbine, one
8 of the first groups that came to speak in
9 favor of the project was the Western
10 Cuyahoga Audubon Society. They were
11 totally in support of the program because
12 of clean, renewable energy, so much so that
13 their request was to do a post-construction
14 bird mortality study when the project was
15 finished.

16 We are located, just to give you an
17 idea, about a quarter of a mile from the
18 heliport at Southwest General Hospital, and
19 we are a mile away from the airport. So if
20 there are any disruptions in radar, we've
21 not experienced that, and neither has the
22 hospital at this point.

23 I said I would keep my comments
24 brief. It's a pleasure to speak and be
25 here with all of you tonight, and I look

1 forward to the Icebreaker project going
2 forward.

3 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

4 Tom Schock.

5 - - - -

6 TOM SCHOCK of lawful age, being first duly
7 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

8 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Please
9 give your name and address.

10 MR. SCHOCK: Hello, I'm Tom Schock,
11 I live at 3941 Fielding Drive, North
12 Olmsted, Ohio.

13 STATEMENT BY TOM SCHOCK:

14 I am with the Cleveland Power of
15 Wind Action team, I've studied the wind
16 energy for several years. I want to
17 address a few of the concerns about
18 Icebreaker that have been raised tonight,
19 and other concerns.

20 First, concerning the cost, land
21 based wind energy has dropped 66 percent in
22 costs since 2009. Wind is now the cheapest
23 form of energy to produce as determined by
24 Lazard, an independent energy data service.
25 I have a breakdown here which I'll submit

1 for the public record. I also have
2 additional copies if anybody needs this.

3 As far as Icebreaker, it's the first
4 offshore wind farm in America, it will be
5 more expensive because the technology is
6 being developed. As with all new
7 industries, costs will certainly come down
8 as the technology is perfected.

9 Second, it concerns visual impacts.
10 Yes, it will be visible from shore, but in
11 six to eight miles out, the visibility will
12 be minimal. A recent website shows
13 multiple turbines right off Edgewater
14 Beach. This is a blatant lie. As you can
15 see when you came into the hearing room
16 today, the visual representation created
17 by Icebreaker is what the visual
18 representation will actually be, about the
19 size of a dime on the horizon. The
20 turbines will never be located that close
21 to shore nor be that visible.

22 Finally, there are concerns about
23 wildlife impacts. Offshore turbines in
24 Europe's North Sea have had a positive
25 impact on fishing as they create fish

1 habitat.

2 As for the birds and bats, one of
3 the main purposes of Icebreaker is to
4 determine the actual bird and bat mortality
5 using extensive radar equipment and other
6 measures. The biggest impact on bird kills
7 are tall buildings and cars -- and cats,
8 rather, as has been brought out.

9 I also have another handout which
10 I'll submit for the public record, and I
11 have additional copies for anyone that
12 wants it, that shows wind turbines -- this
13 is produced by the National Audubon
14 Society, and it shows that wind turbines
15 have a very minimal impact, compared to
16 buildings and cats.

17 Last month, in the Western Cuyahoga
18 Audubon Society newsletter, there was a
19 discussion of an article called Witnessing
20 Extinction, where it discussed the impact
21 of climate change on sea birds and how
22 changes in sea temperature affect the food
23 availability for their young. Whole
24 colonies of sea birds cannot successfully
25 reproduce because the food sources have

1 shifted.

2 To quote from the article, We can,
3 through technology and science, make green
4 energy safer for birds, but we can't wait
5 until these things are perfect and result
6 in no bird deaths. We must take action now
7 because we can't change ocean temperatures
8 through technology.

9 The whole article can be found on
10 the Facebook page for the Western Cuyahoga
11 Audubon Society.

12 So in conclusion, I would say if we
13 don't address the problems of climate
14 change and shift to renewable energy, there
15 will be tragic consequences on all species.

16 Thank you very much.

17 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

18 Steve Dever.

19 - - - -

20 STEVE DEVER of lawful age, being first duly
21 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

22 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

23 MR. DEVER: Steve Dever, 24805
24 Lakeview in Bay Village.

25

1 STATEMENT BY STEVE DEVER:

2 I have waterfront property, and I'm
3 in support of this project. I've been
4 around and involved in it since 2006, with
5 the Energy Task Force, and then LEEDCo.
6 When the Energy Task Force came together in
7 2006 with Case Western Reserve, The
8 Cleveland Foundation, Cuyahoga County, the
9 City of Cleveland, one of the first things
10 that we set about to do was to put together
11 a feasibility study to take a look at
12 advanced energy, specifically wind, as an
13 economic development opportunity for the
14 region.

15 We commissioned a study, went about
16 and produced that, and as a result of that,
17 created LEEDCo with the other counties in
18 Northeast Ohio on the waterfront. One of
19 the things that we always sought to do was
20 to take a look at this pilot project and
21 make sure that it does not harm the
22 environment, and that it does not become a
23 mistake on the lake, that it is designed to
24 produce benefit to the citizens of Northern
25 Ohio through job development, and also, in

1 addition to that, to protect the
2 environment. So that's how we've been
3 through this process for all of these
4 years.

5 I spoke at the last public hearing,
6 but I'm here today in my capacity on behalf
7 of Green Energy Ohio. I just want to offer
8 a letter of support. This is from Jane
9 Harper, its Executive Director.

10 I'm writing on behalf of Green
11 Energy Ohio in support of LEEDCo and
12 Icebreaker Wind. For almost two decades,
13 GEO has been dedicated to promoting
14 environmentally and economically
15 sustainable energy policies and practices
16 in Ohio. GEO has a statewide membership
17 base of businesses, nonprofit groups,
18 community and government entities, and
19 individuals committed to moving Ohio
20 forward on energy and climate issues.

21 The Great Lakes do not exist for our
22 personal, temporary enjoyment. They are a
23 magnificent and complex ecosystem upon
24 which many species rely. They are the
25 lifeblood of communities and the backbone

1 of the industrial Midwest. And they are
2 threatened by algal blooms that close
3 beaches and contaminate water supplies; by
4 increasingly frequent and severe storms
5 that cause erosion and sedimentation and
6 destroy critical habitat; by changes in
7 weather patterns that alter breeding
8 seasons and migration routes; and by
9 fluctuations in the temperature and
10 chemical composition of the water column
11 that affect the aquatic life upon which so
12 many commercial and recreational
13 enterprises depend.

14 Those who are truly committed to
15 saving our beautiful lake understand the
16 necessity of addressing the very real
17 threats of climate change. We cannot
18 afford to look through a narrow lens of
19 self interest when what we need is a
20 powerful telescope to show us what we
21 cannot see - a future in which the
22 renewable energy produced by projects like
23 Icebreaker Wind will ensure the health -
24 and beauty - of the Great Lakes.

25 GEO is pleased to be counted among

1 the supporters of Icebreaker Wind.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. WALSTRA: Karen Allport. Is

4 Karen here?

5 Tom Wasilewski.

6 - - - -

7 TOM WASILEWSKI of lawful age, being first
8 duly sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

9 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you. Please
10 give your name and address, and go ahead.

11 MR. WASILEWSKI: Tom Wasilewski,
12 5600 Sherrod Hill Road, Edinboro,
13 Pennsylvania.

14 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

15 MR. WASILEWSKI: Thank you.

16 STATEMENT BY TOM WASILEWSKI:

17 I am troubled with the staff report,
18 I think it was rushed out too quickly. It
19 left out a number of items that should have
20 been further pursued.

21 And first, the intervenor status, I
22 don't know who took the west Cleveland
23 couple, rejected them as intervenors a
24 couple months ago. They represented the
25 citizens on the west side of Cleveland, and

1 I know there's a Bratenahl group, but they
2 got in there late. If it wasn't for the
3 Cleveland group, there would be nobody
4 fighting this project.

5 And I know the Ohio Sierra Club is
6 an intervenor, and approved, the Ohio
7 Environmental Council is an approved
8 intervenor. Both of those support wind
9 energy, wind turbine energy, throughout the
10 State of Ohio, and they both support the
11 Icebreaker project.

12 Also, there's the Indiana/Kentucky/
13 Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters, and
14 they've been approved as an intervenor in
15 this case. And then we have the business
16 network of Offshore Wind, Incorporated out
17 of Maryland, and they've been approved as
18 an intervenor in this case. And I was
19 shocked when I saw that the Ohio Power
20 Siting Board rejected this west Cleveland
21 couple.

22 As to the business network of
23 Offshore Wind, the President of Icebreaker
24 Windpower, Mr. Wagner, is on the board of
25 this group, this intervenor. It's very

1 troubling to me.

2 The Supreme Court of Ohio has
3 emphasized that intervention ought to be
4 liberally allowed so that the positions of
5 all persons with a real and substantial
6 interest in the proceedings can be
7 considered by the Commission.

8 And that's a very important
9 statement, and people need to have
10 representation. They have to hire an
11 attorney to really take them to court on
12 this case. And there needs to be
13 intervenors representing the public
14 interests.

15 I saw problems with the
16 environmental compatibility certificate
17 that the staff is recommending. There's
18 supposed to be eight criteria, as far as I
19 can read, that must be met, and I see three
20 problems right off the bat. Number 2, the
21 nature of the probable environmental
22 impact. That is great, and that alone can
23 kill this project.

24 Number 4, the facility will serve
25 the interest of the electric system economy

1 and reliability. Icebreaker does none of
2 that.

3 And Number 6, the facility will
4 serve the public interest, convenience, and
5 necessity. Again, Icebreaker fails to meet
6 that criteria, Number 6, as far as I can
7 tell.

8 And the environmental issues were
9 brought forward by the recent -- actually,
10 in 2016, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
11 radar studies along the Lake Erie
12 shoreline, and Lake Ontario. They
13 definitely prove that there's a big bird
14 and bat migration across Lake Erie, that
15 they're staging sometimes before they get
16 to the shoreline, and then they cross over
17 at night. Ninety percent of the birds do
18 fly at night.

19 Now, Mr. Wagner, who I've seen at
20 probably six or seven -- six meetings,
21 probably, in Erie and Cleveland, he
22 continues to say that the birds do not fly
23 over Lake Erie, or if they do, most of them
24 are going around Lake Erie. So he's
25 putting out misinformation at these

1 meetings. And not only him, but his chief
2 salesman, Eric Ritter.

3 And Eric Ritter had a letter to the
4 Erie Times-News a number of years ago,
5 where he said no birds fly over Lake Erie
6 unless they can see land. And 90 percent
7 of the birds do fly at night, and they're
8 not seeing land. That's a statement that's
9 kind of typical of what the LEEDCo
10 Icebreaker partnership is doing.

11 I'd like to say, I hate to criticize
12 the staff report, but it needs to be
13 brought out that they failed to address the
14 public trust doctrine. A lot of what they
15 did is why they're going over the visual
16 aspects tonight, and the trust doctrine was
17 mentioned, and they didn't mention the fish
18 issues.

19 But as to the trust doctrine, Lake
20 Erie is in trust for the benefit of the
21 people of the state, and not the benefit of
22 a private party, and that is Icebreaker
23 Windpower, owned by a Norwegian company
24 now.

25 The staff failed to address

1 comments -- or reference comments, they're
2 very good comments, that were received from
3 the bird organization the American Bird
4 Conservancy, the Black Swamp Bird
5 Observatory, and the (inaudible). They
6 pretty much, I thought, rubber stamped what
7 the applicant provided. And they failed to
8 show the supporting documentation through
9 this 41.4 efficiency rate of the project.

10 They failed to show what period of time was
11 involved when the study was done, and where
12 are these studies? That number is just out
13 there. It was done in the dead of winter,
14 and not included the summertime. Most of
15 these turbines could be dead in the water
16 during a heat spell.

17 The other thing is --

18 MR. O'DONNELL: Your Honors, if I
19 may, some of our supporters were asked to
20 conclude, and they didn't speak this long.
21 We just want to keep things moving. We
22 know we have other supporters here, as
23 well, and we just want to reiterate an
24 objection to the length.

25 MR. DEMBINSKI: Here's one more

1 that's important.

2 MR. WALSTRA: I appreciate it.

3 MR. DEMBINSKI: Now, the staff wrote
4 that the wind turbines are far out, eight
5 to ten miles, and that the visibility of
6 wind turbines is minimized, that viewing
7 wind turbines is subjective as to the
8 aesthetic impact. The staff did not refer
9 to the Argonne National Lab study at all,
10 and that study, which is a -- the lab is
11 part of the U.S. Department of Energy.
12 That study definitely showed, it's called
13 the offshore wind turbine study and visual
14 effects, it's conducted a number of
15 offshore wind turbine projects in the
16 United Kingdom, and what they wrote -- they
17 wrote a lot of things.

18 But anyway, their turbines that they
19 examined, that are 20 percent smaller than
20 the Icebreaker turbines, they wrote, The
21 visual impacts to seascapes associated with
22 offshore wind facilities are without
23 precedent.

24 The study was sent to the Ohio Power
25 Siting Board by me, and should have been in

1 the case files, and they should have looked
2 at it.

3 But thank you very much.

4 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

5 Next up is Brian Dembinski.

6 We have received a couple of updates
7 from the Cleveland Police Department. The
8 doors are currently locked at the front, so
9 if you're going to exit, it is through the
10 basement. And also, they're telling us
11 that we need to be out of here by 10:00
12 o'clock.

13 - - -

14 BRIAN DEMBINSKI of lawful age, being first
15 duly sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

16 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

17 Please state your name and address,
18 and go ahead.

19 MR. DEMBINSKI: Brian Dembinski, 782
20 Peregrine Place, Amherst Ohio, 44001.

21 STATEMENT BY BRIAN DEMBINSKI:

22 I'm here representing myself as a
23 citizen, and I'll speak briefly, since
24 those before me did not.

25 In addition to the other positive

1 benefits for the wind turbine project, I'm
2 also a City Councilman in a suburb, and we
3 purchase our electricity, and occasionally
4 we need to rebalance our energy portfolio.
5 And I look forward to the opportunity of
6 adding a sustainable energy source such as
7 this wind project to our energy portfolio
8 when the opportunity presents itself.

9 Thank you for having us, and thank
10 you very much.

11 MS. ADDISON: Kurt Rim. Kurt Rim.

12 Jennifer Tharp.

13 A VOICE: Excuse me, the last name?

14 MS. ADDISON: Rim, R-I-M.

15 A VOICE: Okay, no.

16 MS. ADDISON: Jennifer Tharp.

17 - - - -

18 JENNIFER THARP of lawful age, being first
19 duly sworn, testified upon her oath as follows:

20 MS. ADDISON: Please state your name
21 and address.

22 MS. THARP: Jennifer Tharp from
23 Squire Patton Boggs, 4900 Key Tower, 127
24 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio.

25 Thank you.

1 STATEMENT BY JENNIFER THARP:

2 I'm making this statement on behalf
3 of Emily Huggins Jones from Squire Patton
4 Boggs, who was unable to be here tonight.
5 So this is from her perspective.

6 When I first began my legal career
7 15 years ago, I was tasked to assist a
8 consortium of professionals and citizens
9 who supported the development of renewable
10 energy sources in the Midwest. Today,
11 LEEDCo is positioned to make those
12 fledgling efforts a reality with the
13 installation of the first fresh water
14 offshore wind project in the United States.

15 As a transplant from the East Coast,
16 many have questioned why I would consider
17 moving to an area where, as many
18 individuals have mentioned, the river has
19 burned. The answer is because Cleveland
20 provides an opportunity for renaissance,
21 both commercial and residential, and the
22 Icebreaker project is a perfect
23 encapsulation of this potential.

24 Renewable energy from offshore
25 wind is cleaner, less environmentally

1 burdensome, and an unlimited resource as
2 compared to energy from fossil fuels, and
3 it can be a significant economic driver for
4 an industrial and manufacturing base in
5 Northeast Ohio.

6 To those who have expressed concern
7 about environmental impacts, LEEDCo has put
8 a tremendous amount of resources into
9 sediment analysis, vibration studies,
10 benthic reviews, and avian and bat
11 analyses, and has exceeded the requirements
12 for every review requested of it. It has
13 done this to analyze potential
14 environmental impacts from the installation
15 of the six turbines eight miles offshore in
16 the lake.

17 To those who have dismissed the
18 economic stimulus expected from the
19 installation, operation, and maintenance of
20 the Icebreaker project, we'd like to chime
21 in with the chorus of business and
22 community leaders who realize the potential
23 that offshore wind development holds.

24 An example is Will Friedman, the CEO
25 of the Port of Cleveland, who has expressed

1 his excitement about the role the Port
2 would play in staging the turbine
3 construction process. Longshore worker and
4 seamen's associations throughout the region
5 have also expressed their support for the
6 man-hours that will be required by U.S.
7 workers, and we would like to add that the
8 Jones Act requires U.S. workers on U.S.
9 vessels to do much of the work. There will
10 also be demand for component parts,
11 vessels, port infrastructure, and
12 operational expertise from installation.
13 And Northeast Ohio is uniquely poised to
14 service the offshore wind industry through
15 materials and manpower.

16 I will jump to, Moreover, the lens
17 through which Icebreaker is perceived has
18 become necessarily personal. That said, I
19 encourage the board and the broader public
20 to look at Icebreaker not as a potential
21 intrusion on your person viewshed, which
22 LEEDCo has demonstrated not to be the
23 reality, or unsupported fears that the
24 sound of turning blades will infringe on
25 your tranquility from eight miles out in

1 the lake. Instead, Icebreaker presents an
2 opportunity for Cleveland to lead.

3 We would add that the U.S. lags
4 behind the vast majority of European
5 nations in embracing renewal energy
6 sources. As of 2017, Europe has a total of
7 installed offshore wind capacity of 15,780
8 megawatts. This corresponds to 4,149
9 grid-connected wind turbines across 11
10 countries, and 2017 was a record year.
11 This corresponds to 560 new offshore wind
12 turbines across 17 wind farms.

13 The technology is proven, and
14 Europeans are already reaping the benefits
15 of this energy. It's time for Cleveland to
16 lead the U.S. in joining the renewable
17 energy movement, as well.

18 While I don't expect my perspective
19 to carry the day, I encourage those who
20 oppose Icebreaker to look into more details
21 surrounding the project, the research, the
22 due diligence conducted to ensure minimal
23 environmental impact, and to weigh the
24 benefits of renewable energy in the form of
25 offshore wind, and to consider the

1 potential economic benefits that would
2 result in this industry coming to
3 Cleveland.

4 And I'll conclude by thanking you
5 for your attention today. Thank you to
6 everyone who has made comments on both
7 sides of the debate, and for taking the
8 time to listen to it.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. ADDISON: Elizabeth Oestreicher.

11 Elizabeth Oestreicher.

12 Marty Ellman. Marty Ellman.

13 George Hutchinson.

14 Mike Shingary.

15 Phillip Schmidt.

16 Ted Auch.

17 Stephen Gabor.

18 - - - -

19 STEPHEN GABOR of lawful age, being first duly
20 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

21 MS. ADDISON: Please state your name
22 and address.

23 MR. GABOR: My name is Stephen
24 Gabor. I live at 10301 Lake Avenue, Number
25 525, Cleveland, Ohio, 44102.

1 STATEMENT BY STEPHEN GABOR:

2 I'm here tonight representing Ohio
3 Citizen Action as their Membership Director
4 of our statewide grassroots clean energy
5 group. We're 32,000 members, nearly half
6 of which reside in Northeast Ohio.

7 I'm also here to testify as a
8 resident of the Edgewater - Clifton
9 neighborhood of Cleveland, where I've
10 resided for the last 13 years, just two
11 blocks away from Lake Erie and Edgewater
12 Park.

13 I'm here to support the Icebreaker
14 wind project. Nearly every day for several
15 months now at Ohio Citizen Action, our
16 staff has been knocking on thousands of
17 doors and making thousands of phone calls
18 to community members throughout Ohio,
19 talking to people about the benefits of
20 wind power and renewable energy in Ohio.

21 We have seen and heard overwhelming
22 support for wind development in our state,
23 and overwhelming support for projects such
24 as Icebreaker Wind.

25 As our members have confirmed, wind

1 power is obviously a better source of
2 energy generation for the environment. It
3 provides a cleaner, healthier, and safer
4 alternative to other forms of energy. But
5 not only is wind power good for public
6 health and the environment, it's good for
7 the economy and consumers. Communities in
8 Ohio and elsewhere that have welcomed wind
9 power have seen new investments, tax
10 revenue, and new jobs, according to
11 (inaudible). And the cost of wind power
12 has dropped dramatically in just the last
13 ten years, with wind turbine prices alone
14 having fallen 50 percent since 2010.

15 And as wind electricity costs
16 continue to plummet, this means cheaper and
17 more affordable electric bills for
18 consumers, while we work toward a cleaner
19 and more sustainable energy future with a
20 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

21 Right now, the City of Cleveland and
22 Northeast Ohio have a tremendous
23 opportunity to welcome this cutting edge
24 technology for our community and residents.
25 With Lake Erie at our doorstep, we have a

1 unique opportunity no one else in Ohio has,
2 to utilize one of our best natural
3 resources in a positive way, to improve our
4 health and air quality, to diversify our
5 energy portfolio, and to create a future
6 that is sustainable for Northeast Ohioans
7 both economically and for public health.

8 So on behalf of Ohio Citizen
9 Action's 32,000 members, and as a long-time
10 Cleveland resident born and raised right
11 here, I strongly urge you to support
12 Icebreaker Wind's application for offshore
13 wind power on Lake Erie.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

16 MS. ADDISON: Chris Lamb.

17 - - - -

18 CHRISTINE LAMB of lawful age, being first
19 duly sworn, testified upon her oath as follows:

20 MS. ADDISON: Please state your name
21 and address.

22 MS. LAMB: Christine R. Lamb, 2746
23 Union Avenue, Northeast, Minerva, Ohio,
24 44657.

25

1 STATEMENT BY CHRISTINE LAMB:

2 Thank you for allowing me to speak.

3 My name is Chris Lamb from Stark County.

4 My family does have a long history here on

5 Lake Erie. My earliest ancestors traveled

6 here in 1821 by flatboat from New York

7 along the shore to get here, settling in

8 Ottawa County, later Kelleys Island in

9 Sandusky. I, myself, was born in Lakewood,

10 and worked at Cedar Point. So we have a

11 long history, and love the lake dearly.

12 My great grandfather was a

13 commercial fisherman. My father worked on

14 barges on the lake. And so we understand

15 fully that jobs are important, economic

16 development is important, fishing is

17 important, all of these things.

18 However, as an individual, and I'm

19 currently a board member of the Canton

20 Audubon Society, I also understand that our

21 irreplaceable environment is also very

22 important for us, for our children, our

23 grandchildren, today, and the years, the

24 decades, the centuries yet to come. So we

25 need to take a long view and do the right

1 thing.

2 We need to protect our lake as a
3 resource for the people, and as one of the
4 best sources of water, and never take it
5 for granted, as someone earlier said, and I
6 forgot about it until they said that,
7 remember when the Cuyahoga River burned.
8 We do not want to start anything close to
9 that, or like they had in Flint, Michigan,
10 with the water situation. So we need to be
11 extremely careful, and have all that
12 testing done by independent sources, and
13 not just LEEDCo. For example, that would
14 be like the pharmaceutical companies that
15 test their own medicines. It needs to be
16 tested independently.

17 Secondly, birds, fish, and other
18 lake dwellers are also extremely important.
19 If you remove or impede on one aspect of
20 the environment, as we've discovered over
21 the years, everything is interconnected.
22 If one layer of it goes away, other layers
23 go, as well, and eventually, it comes to
24 us. And once these creatures are gone,
25 they can't be restored.

1 So again, I would urge the Siting
2 Board to have those issues examined
3 independently, not by LEEDCo, but
4 independently, and transparent issues and
5 answers provided.

6 And I do agree for the need for the
7 further study of the impact on the birds
8 and the fish, and the Canton Audubon
9 Society would also be in agreement with
10 that.

11 Thirdly, you know, technology is
12 expanding at an ever-increasing level, and
13 I've been reading about new kinds of wind
14 turbines being developed. I would like to
15 strongly encourage the Siting Board not to
16 be tied to one particular wind turbine
17 model. I know that the initial plans are
18 for six wind turbines of one type. But
19 there are new models being developed that
20 might potentially be better for birds, the
21 environment, fish, and so I would like to
22 encourage the board to consider that if
23 that becomes the case, that after the six,
24 a reevaluation be done, and determination,
25 should another type of turbine be

1 considered if you do go forward with the
2 project.

3 And so I just encourage extreme
4 caution, and due diligence, even beyond the
5 years that have already been put in, so
6 that the right thing is done for us, for
7 our children, and all future generations.

8 And I thank you for your time.

9 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

10 Jonathan Steirer.

11 - - - -

12 JONATHAN STEIRER of lawful age, being first
13 duly sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

14 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

15 State your name and address.

16 MR. STEIRER: Jonathan Steirer, 2057
17 West 100th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, 44102.

18 STATEMENT BY JONATHAN STEIRER:

19 So I live about a mile from
20 Edgewater Park, I'm a naval architect, I'm
21 an engineer for Northeast Ohio, and I'm
22 here in support of this project.

23 I am a recreational user of the
24 lake, I'm there very often. I'm a power --
25 an energy customer in Cleveland. I am a

1 general proponent for wind power,
2 specifically offshore wind power. I was
3 fortunate to be a student at Maine Maritime
4 Academy when the power was turned on on the
5 VoltturnUS turbine, which was the first
6 grid-connected offshore turbine in the
7 Americas. I was fortunate enough to
8 (inaudible) speak with both the utilities
9 that operate them, and the residents living
10 adjacent to them, and experienced
11 satisfaction with those projects firsthand.

12 And I understand there is a
13 frustration with the perceived lack of
14 data around this project, but that's
15 unfortunately something inherent to being
16 the first. And I think this is a catalytic
17 project. It would be -- it might be very
18 ill-advised to not capitalize on this
19 resource we have, and planning for
20 long-term transmission to energy
21 diversification and becoming less reliant
22 on unsustainable fuels.

23 And as an aside, it was brought up
24 a couple times, concern about how these
25 structures interact with ice, and why we do

1 not have offshore wind turbines. As
2 someone who has worked construction in
3 structures in the marine environment, I can
4 assure you that people have designed
5 structures to exist in environments with
6 ice before. It's not uncharted territory.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

9 Drew Ferguson.

10 Tom Bullock.

11 Jamie Davis.

12 Michael Bremmer.

13 David Zeng.

14 Econia Young.

15 Suzanne Reilly. We found one.

16 - - - -

17 SUZANNE REILLY of lawful age, being first
18 duly sworn, testified upon her oath as follows:

19 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

20 Give your name and address, and you
21 may begin.

22 Suzanne Reilly, 17475 Shaw Avenue,
23 Lakewood, Ohio, 44107.

1 STATEMENT BY SUZANNE REILLY:

2 I am not representing anybody other
3 than myself, and hopefully the citizens of
4 Cleveland, Lakewood.

5 I grew up in this area, I've lived
6 in Lakewood for the last 40-some years. I
7 love this area. I go down to the lake
8 every single day on my lunch hour because I
9 only work about ten minutes from there. So
10 I'm very, very appreciative of what we have
11 in Cleveland. I'm also a business person.
12 I'm a controller at a small manufacturing
13 company, so I know how important it is to
14 have businesses in Cleveland that are being
15 able to go forward.

16 And there was a recent article in
17 the Crain's Cleveland Business, I think
18 someone else might have mentioned it, and
19 the gentleman that is the CEO of the Port
20 Authority, William Friedman, is very
21 anxious for this project to go forward,
22 number one, because it would make Cleveland
23 a hub for not only just erecting this
24 Icebreaker project, but also the supply
25 chain that it can and hopefully will evolve

1 into.

2 We, in America, have lost the
3 opportunity to be leaders in the
4 manufacture and the use of wind, we're late
5 coming to the table, which is why we have
6 to go overseas for some of our technology.

7 But we are so ready now, and
8 Cleveland is so ready now to take on this
9 project, and I think -- I look forward very
10 much to this project going and being
11 completed.

12 So I certainly hope that it goes in
13 favor of the Icebreaker Wind project.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

16 Andy Krotseng.

17 - - - -

18 ANDY KROTSENG of lawful age, being first duly
19 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

20 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

21 Give your name and address, and you
22 can begin.

23 MR. KROTSENG: My name and address,
24 I'm Norman Andrew Krotseng, 1190 Summit
25 Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio.

1 STATEMENT BY ANDY KROTSENG:

2 I represent the Inter-Lake Yachting
3 Association, a membership of over 65,000
4 boaters in the region and Lake Erie. I was
5 last year's Commodore, and I speak on
6 behalf of the board and the current
7 administration. I'm going to keep my
8 comments limited to our scope and what our
9 organization does.

10 The addition of up to 1,450
11 navigation hazards in this part of Lake
12 Erie is absolutely offensive to our
13 organization.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. WALSTRA: Thank you.

16 Norman Robbins.

17 MS. ADDISON: Jonathan Holody.

18 - - - -

19 JONATHAN HOLODY of lawful age, being first
20 duly sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

21 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

22 Please state your name and address.

23 MR. HOLODY: Jonathan Holody, 34
24 East 212th Street, Euclid, Ohio.

25

1 STATEMENT BY JONATHAN HOLODY:

2 I'm the Director of Planning and
3 Development for the City of Euclid, and I'm
4 here tonight to speak in support of Project
5 Icebreaker.

6 Project Icebreaker is consistent
7 with the efforts and interests of the major
8 industrial employers within our community,
9 many of which are either currently a part
10 of the wind industry supply chain or well
11 positioned to enter the sector.

12 Utility scale wind energy production
13 has already been embraced by two Euclid
14 companies. Lincoln Electric installed a
15 2.5 megawatt wind tower measuring 443 feet,
16 and William Sopko and Sons has a 1 megawatt
17 tower measuring 318 feet in the City of
18 Euclid.

19 These turbines not only provide
20 clean, renewable power for industrial
21 production, they demonstrate the
22 progressive, entrepreneurial attitude
23 embodied by so many of our business
24 leaders. The towers, in fact, have become
25 a source of pride for the City of Euclid.

1 They're a defining feature of our city, and
2 they have become even incorporated into our
3 city logo.

4 Project Icebreaker has the potential
5 to provide these same economic,
6 environmental, and community defining
7 benefits of wind energy to the entire
8 Northeast Ohio community, which is why
9 Euclid City Council unanimously approved
10 Resolution 128-2013 which declared the City
11 of Euclid's support for Project Icebreaker,
12 and today I would respectfully submit this
13 resolution along with my testimony in
14 support of Project Icebreaker.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

17 Grant Goodrich.

18 Steve McApee.

19 MR. McPHEE: McPhee.

20 MS. ADDISON: McPhee.

21 - - - -

22 STEVE McPHEE of lawful age, being first duly
23 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

24 MS. ADDISON: Please state your name
25 and address for the record.

1 MR. McPHEE: Yes, I'm Steve McPhee,
2 Berea, 19 Parkview Drive, it's 44017.

3 STATEMENT BY STEVE McPHEE:

4 I'm here on behalf of myself today.

5 Our climate is changing, and science
6 tells us it's most likely our burning of
7 fossil fuels that is the cause. Some even
8 fear we may have already gone too far to
9 reverse the effects, but all urge immediate
10 reductions in the use of fossil fuels. The
11 burning of coal, oil, and gas must be
12 reduced. The people of the world came
13 together in Paris and set goals to this
14 end.

15 The simplest way to achieve this is
16 to get our electricity from solar and wind.

17 Clevelanders need electricity that
18 does not spoil our air, water, and land.
19 By reducing our use of fossil fuels to
20 generate power, we also reduce pollution,
21 which causes asthma rates in Cleveland,
22 which are very high. I, myself, have had
23 a lifelong struggle with asthma. I now
24 realize it's most likely related to my
25 early childhood near the River Rouge

1 district in the Detroit area.

2 We moved to a nicer old neighborhood
3 on the other side of town. We used to get
4 soot and gray dust on our cars, didn't
5 realize what it was then. I now know we
6 were downwind of the Seven Sisters power
7 plant, less than a mile from it.

8 I now live in Berea, with the
9 airport, turnpike, Interstate 71, a major
10 railway that now has over 150 trains a
11 day, and I still have this problem.

12 Fortunately, I found the treatment to help
13 my asthma, but I will always know I have
14 it, and why.

15 Our state legislature has catered to
16 the oil and gas industry and all but
17 outlawed placing wind turbines on land. So
18 we are left with solar panels, which I have
19 on my house, and this wind project on Lake
20 Erie.

21 I'm an environmentalist, but I also
22 must live in this area with our modern
23 lifestyle. I applaud all of the hard work
24 and thorough study that has been done on
25 this project. I'm satisfied that we know

1 enough to proceed. I'm looking forward to
2 what knowledge we will gain from the first
3 of its kind project in our great lake.

4 I urge the Ohio Power Siting Board
5 to approve this project so it can be built
6 and we can learn and benefit from clean
7 power that does not sicken our children and
8 poison our environment.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

11 Akshai Singh. I'm really sorry.

12 MR. SINGH: No, that was perfect. I
13 was waiting for the hesitation. That's
14 awesome.

15 - - - -

16 AKSHAI SINGH of lawful age, being first duly
17 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

18 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

19 Please state your name and address.

20 MR. SINGH: My name is Akshai Singh,
21 and I live at 2585 Euclid Heights
22 Boulevard.

23 STATEMENT BY AKSHAI SINGH:

24 I want to speak in support of the
25 project. I, in full disclosure, was part

1 of the LEEDCo outreach team in 2013, but I
2 am not speaking on behalf of LEEDCo by any
3 means.

4 I just want to speak to part of
5 the process that I experienced of going
6 out and talking to hundreds of folks in
7 Lake County, Cuyahoga County, Lorain
8 County, and I know folks went further out,
9 in relating, you know, at people's doors
10 what LEEDCo was trying to do, from my
11 perspective, and to hear and see the amount
12 of excitement for local, clean, renewable
13 energy that would be produced here in the
14 region.

15 One thing that we know is Cleveland
16 has seen job flight, unknown by many
17 cities. The only city that has lost more
18 jobs in the last decade, I believe, is
19 San Juan, Puerto Rico post Hurricane Maria.

20 I bring that up specifically also
21 because the implications of climate change
22 mean that we have to expand clean and
23 renewable energy on scales we have not even
24 considered or are in the works.

25 But to bring up the fact that the

1 way that LEEDCo has approached due
2 diligence of making sure that both wildlife
3 studies, with the amount of outreach done
4 with local conservation organizations, with
5 the technology that they're trying to bring
6 online, that should be setting the standard
7 for conservation efforts and how we
8 consider developing wind projects that we
9 all need to preserve wildlife habitats over
10 the next century, as well as to make sure
11 that we set a strong development standard
12 for projects like this.

13 Cleveland is positioned right now to
14 be one of the cities that can actually
15 answer the call of needing to produce a --
16 to deal with the massive implications of
17 climate change. We have a supply chain
18 concentration of an industry that is --
19 should be the envy of other places that
20 we're willing to build on.

21 So I would just really encourage the
22 Siting Board to both approve this, and to
23 consider the benefits of future
24 development.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

2 Elizabeth Tippit. Elizabeth Tippit.

3 Ursula McVey.

4 Jamie Mance.

5 Jon Eckerle.

6 - - - -

7 JON ECKERLE of lawful age, being first duly
8 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

9 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

10 Please state your name and address.

11 MR. ECKERLE: Jon Eckerle, 6527
12 Superior, Cleveland.

13 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

14 STATEMENT BY JON ECKERLE:

15 I don't want to repeat what other
16 advocates have said already, but what
17 impressed me was how LEEDCo was portrayed
18 as almost an evil organization over
19 these -- by the opposition.

20 It's actually made up -- I've been
21 following this for like ten years -- and
22 it's made up of people who really care
23 about the community. I mean, the very head
24 of its board is Ronn, who is the head of
25 The Cleveland Foundation. There's

1 commissioners from all the counties across
2 Northeast Ohio.

3 These people are fighting to
4 represent them, and to make sure that the
5 interests of their citizens are covered,
6 this organization, because they see it as
7 this catalytic organization that's going to
8 put a test, a demo, in the lake.

9 And the last thing, I remember a
10 long time ago looking at bird and bat maps
11 galore, and the last thing that LEEDCo
12 wants is bird kills. Anyone who puts up a
13 windmill, the last thing they want is to be
14 able to have that data come out.

15 I think what you're doing, in the
16 precautions of the Siting Board, of
17 insisting on before and after statistics
18 and research, answering questions like, how
19 does this come down at the end of its
20 lifespan, are all good questions that you
21 should include. They're good precautions.

22 And I just think that one of the
23 other things that we need to look at is how
24 threatening this is to big power. There's
25 interests from coal interests, to power

1 interests, and the only reason this is
2 working right now is because of Cleveland
3 Public Power, and that there's a lot of
4 good people who have been fighting for this
5 for the last ten years or so.

6 But this is -- make sure you have
7 safeguards in place, and I encourage you to
8 put this test out in the lake so we can
9 determine what are the real problems and
10 assets with this project.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

13 Linda New.

14 - - - -

15 LINDA NEW of lawful age, being first duly
16 sworn, testified upon her oath as follows:

17 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

18 Please state your name and address,
19 and you may make your statement.

20 MS NEW: Linda New, 26367 Locust
21 Drive, Olmsted Falls.

22 STATEMENT BY LINDA NEW:

23 Nine years ago, LEEDCo, a nonprofit
24 public-private partnership was formed to
25 develop the offshore wind potential on Lake

1 Erie. Their goals were to create local,
2 sustainable jobs, to boost our economy, to
3 help protect our clean air and drinkable
4 water, and to build a renewable wind energy
5 industry in the Great Lakes area.

6 A lease was executed, funding was
7 secured, multiple environmental impact
8 studies by the U.S. Department of Energy,
9 the Ohio Department of Natural Resources,
10 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the
11 Cleveland Water Department, and many other
12 organizations concluded that the project
13 would result in no significant
14 environmental impacts. Open houses and
15 public comment periods have been taking
16 place for two years. The Power Siting
17 Board has been reviewing this application
18 since November of 2017.

19 While this lengthy review process
20 has continued with one hurdle after
21 another, oil and gas have continued to
22 burn, toxins have been pouring into our air
23 from drilling and burning of fossil fuels,
24 heavy metals have continued to be spilled
25 into our water, and our soil has become

1 laced with carcinogens. In this year
2 alone, ETP and Sunoco were issued six stop
3 work orders by state agencies due to
4 violations of laws that were designed to
5 protect our rivers, our wetlands, our
6 drinking water, and our public safety. Yet
7 construction of pipelines continues. No
8 one is stopping them.

9 In April of 2017, the Rover Pipeline
10 spilled two million gallons of drilling
11 fluids into pristine wetlands near the
12 Tuscarawas River in Stark County, but
13 pipeline construction has continued.

14 ETP's Rover Pipeline spilled another
15 150,000 gallons of drilling fluid in
16 January of 2018. Over the past two years,
17 the Rover Pipeline has committed more
18 dangerous violations of public safety laws
19 than any other interstate gas pipeline, yet
20 drilling and construction of pipelines
21 continues to damage the air, the water, and
22 the soil in Ohio, threatening our
23 communities, our wildlife, and the
24 environment in which we live. There is no
25 safe way to extract and burn fossil fuels.

1 Ohio now has an opportunity to move
2 away from oil and gas and to launch the
3 first offshore fresh water wind project in
4 North America. Lake Erie holds enough wind
5 energy to power our state with safe,
6 sustainably generated electricity. We must
7 take advantage of this chance to move ahead
8 and become a leader in clean energy
9 production. I urge you to approve the
10 Icebreaker Wind project and help move Ohio
11 forward.

12 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

13 Greg Lockhart. Greg Lockhart.

14 Believe it or not, that concludes
15 our list of those that have signed up.

16 Mr. Lockhart?

17 MR. BULLOCK: I was signed up,
18 Number 53. I left to get my kids and came
19 back.

20 MS. ADDISON: I apologize.

21 MR. BULLOCK: So if you don't mind
22 if I --

23 MS. ADDISON: Absolutely.

24 - - - -

25

1 TOM BULLOCK of lawful age, being first duly
2 sworn, testified upon his oath as follows:

3 MS. ADDISON: Please just state your
4 name and address for the record.

5 STATEMENT BY TOM BULLOCK:

6 I'm Tom Bullock, I'm at 1508
7 Rosewood Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio, where I've
8 served for 11 years now as a City
9 Councilman for Lakewood, which is an inner
10 ring suburb of Cleveland, we're an
11 immediate neighbor. In fact, two sides,
12 we're neighbors of Cleveland on one side,
13 and we're neighbors of Lake Erie.

14 And if you come to Lakewood, we have
15 a beautiful park right on Lake Erie, it's
16 called Lakewood Park, and just a couple
17 years ago, we spent the better part of
18 \$3 million in putting in a beautiful
19 boardwalk, and it's called the Solstice
20 Steps.

21 And you can see and enjoy all of the
22 beautiful nature, the cliff, the shore.
23 And in fact, on the summer solstice, the
24 sun lines up perfectly with the center
25 point, and it has become a wonderful

1 community gathering point. People from all
2 over come and enjoy the beauty that is Lake
3 Erie, and on the map of your proposed
4 project site, if you look straight out,
5 you'll see, on a clear day, when it is
6 clear, the turbines from this project. And
7 I think that is wonderful.

8 Lakewood is the most walkable
9 community in Ohio. We're the densest and
10 most compact community, and in every one of
11 our community vision documents that are
12 planned, we talk about the values of
13 sustainability, diversity, innovation, and
14 this kind of venture embodies all of that.

15 We're a lakefront community. I know
16 that there's a lot of our neighbors from
17 across the lakeshore who are here concerned
18 about the lake, and I share that concern.
19 I hope that we'll enjoy their support when
20 it comes time to address (inaudible) and
21 other things.

22 But I think that there's a way to do
23 any project right, and there's a way to do
24 any project wrong. And I have reviewed the
25 documents here. I think that the care and

1 attention to detail given by the project
2 applicant and the staff on your agency is
3 on the right track. And if we do studies,
4 and we don't cut corners, we'll know if
5 there are appropriate impacts or not on
6 wildlife and all the rest.

7 So let's do the glass is half full,
8 not half empty. There's been a lot of
9 concern expressed by opponents about what
10 might or might not happen, but that fails
11 to see that there's a cost to inaction,
12 there's an opportunity cost for doing
13 nothing, called climate change, which is
14 hurting all of us right now. This is a
15 local solution to climate change. There's
16 a cost of inaction of doing no innovation
17 for job growth.

18 A hundred years ago, Cleveland was a
19 hotbed for innovation and generated lots of
20 industrial patents. Those patents created
21 jobs. Those jobs created opportunities, in
22 fact, for immigrants from all over the
23 world. And that economic activity is
24 something that we need to get back,
25 especially in an era when technology and

1 innovation drives the economy so clearly.
2 Cleveland and Ohio may not rival Silicon
3 Valley for tech, but we can innovate tech
4 with (inaudible) things coming, with
5 advancements in things other speakers have
6 said.

7 So in this one project, we have many
8 layers of value, which we all owe it to
9 ourselves, and to the kids that I left at
10 home, to come back tonight to try to
11 improve our community and our economic
12 future.

13 And if I may also say, as Pope
14 Francis has reminded, we have a duty to
15 creation itself, to do something to improve
16 climate, climate change, and the energy and
17 footprint that we all have. Not all of
18 that is within your scope, but I think that
19 within your scope, you've done your work
20 well, and I think we'll know, within the
21 parameters of the study that you've
22 outlined, whether the project will be
23 successful. I'm optimistic that it will,
24 but we'll see what the data shows.

25 I urge you to recommend to the

1 Commissioners full approval of the project
2 as proposed, and to my neighbors I say,
3 let's continue working to improve projects,
4 let's not see things as negative or as only
5 problems when there's so much opportunity
6 engaged in this project, as well.

7 Thanks for your time.

8 MS. ADDISON: That concludes
9 everyone that has signed up this evening to
10 testify. I'd like to open up the floor to
11 anyone who did not previously sign up, if
12 you'd like to speak at this time.

13 MR. O'DONNELL: Your Honor.

14 MS. ADDISON: One moment,
15 Mr. O'Donnell.

16 (Pause)

17 MS. ADDISON: Yes, Mr. O'Donnell.

18 MR. O'DONNELL: Thank you.

19 Just a comment. LEEDCo has asked
20 me, through the Chair, to let them know
21 that the Director of Sustainability for the
22 project is here, and if people want to have
23 a continuing, ongoing, productive dialogue,
24 Beth is right here, and has her business
25 card, so this doesn't have to be the end of

1 the conversation.

2 MS. ADDISON: Thank you very much.

3 And with that, I know we do have to
4 be out in the next ten minutes, but as we
5 are all walking to the parking garage, if
6 you have any additional questions for staff
7 or for LEEDCo's representative here
8 tonight, please feel free to ask those
9 questions or get their contact information,
10 I'm sure they would be happy to answer any
11 questions that you may have.

12 That will conclude tonight's public
13 hearing. Thank you so much for your
14 patience during this process. We truly
15 appreciate everyone's comments and remarks
16 this evening, and we will provide them to
17 the board for their consideration.

18 Thank you.

19 - - - -

20 (Meeting Concluded.)

21 - - - -

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25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Ivy J. Gantverg, RPR and Notary Public
within and for the State of Ohio, do hereby
certify that I attended the foregoing hearing
in its entirety, that I wrote the same in
stenotypy, and that this is a true and correct
transcript of my stenotype notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
hand and seal of office, at Cleveland, Ohio,
this 3rd day of August, 2018.

Ivy J. Gantverg, RPR and
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires November 5, 2018

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 **PUCO Hearing**

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<div>12 32:22 120:2,6 121:3 125:20 128:23</div> <div>12,000 73:17 117:10</div> <div>120,000 48:5</div> <div>1228 47:13</div> <div>124,000 73:1,13</div> <div>1269 74:17</div> <div>127 15:17 19:21 158:23</div>	<div>128-2013 177:10</div> <div>13 32:17 49:2 164:10</div> <div>1300 139:14</div> <div>13862 126:19</div> <div>13th 7:21</div> <div>14 41:9 129:12</div> <div>146 92:16</div> <div>148th 89:10</div> <div>15 40:7,8 42:2 47:11 81:12 136:20 140:2 159:7</div> <div>15,780 162:7</div> <div>150 6:19 19:7 20:22 137:2 179:10</div> <div>150,000 187:15</div> <div>1508 189:6</div> <div>1525 66:15</div> <div>15th 110:7</div> <div>16 45:15 47:12</div> <div>16-1871-EL-BGN</div> <div>5:8</div> <div>168 18:18</div> <div>17 132:23 138:11 162:12</div> <div>17475 172:22</div> <div>18 41:11</div> <div>1800s 20:11 22:4</div> <div>1821 167:6</div> <div>19 178:2</div> <div>19,000 48:3</div> <div>19001 92:10</div> <div>1900s 20:11 22:4</div> <div>1936 50:4</div> <div>1970s 20:12 22:4</div> <div>1st 7:20 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141:13</div> <div>500ths 64:12</div> <div>525 163:25</div> <div>53 188:18</div> <div>535 78:13</div> <div>55 120:25</div> <div>550 34:18</div> <div>560 162:11</div> <div>5600 150:12</div> <div>5939 58:23</div>	<div>6</div> <div>6 153:3,6</div> <div>60 20:4 90:23 106:6</div> <div>600 140:5</div> <div>65 18:3 19:16 105:20</div> <div>65,000 175:3</div> <div>6527 183:11</div> <div>66 143:21</div> <div>68th 50:1</div> <div>69th 47:13</div> <div>6th 8:6</div> <div>7</div> <div>7.1 119:13</div> <div>70 135:19</div> <div>71 179:9</div> <div>75,000 10:11</div> <div>782 157:19</div> <div>8</div> <div>8,200 10:10</div> <div>8.17 120:9</div> <div>80 41:12 65:13 73:3 110:3 133:6 137:8</div> <div>80s 79:12</div> <div>85 123:17</div> <div>871 15:20</div> <div>9</div> <div>9 19:25</div> <div>90 80:17 154:6</div> <div>93 106:3</div> <div>95 106:3</div> <div>97.5 15:10</div> <div>A</div> <div>ABC 56:1 57:16</div> <div>ability 12:9 45:25 46:11 81:4</div> <div>abounds 81:25</div> <div>absolutely 69:21 72:8 138:2 175:12 188:23</div> <div>abundance 45:19</div> <div>abundant 92:15</div> <div>abundantly 48:23</div> <div>abuse 20:9,13 21:4</div> <div>Academy 171:4</div> <div>accept 69:24</div> <div>accompanied 131:10</div> <div>accomplished 60:15 63:11</div> <div>account 74:6</div> <div>accounted 138:8</div> <div>accounts 110:4</div> <div>accuracy 121:14</div>
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Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 PUCO Hearing

<p>accurately 11:9 121:19</p> <p>accusation 125:5, 10</p> <p>accusations 124:19</p> <p>accuse 125:1</p> <p>achieve 62:1 178:15</p> <p>achieved 38:25 62:8 127:8</p> <p>acknowledged 39:16</p> <p>acquire 60:17 61:25</p> <p>Act 61:1,2 63:18 94:7 141:16 161:8</p> <p>action 56:18 77:19, 20 143:15 146:6 164:3,15</p> <p>Action's 166:9</p> <p>actions 70:25</p> <p>activity 65:3 191:23</p> <p>actual 145:4</p> <p>adaptive 62:5</p> <p>add 161:7 162:3</p> <p>added 61:3,11 121:2,3</p> <p>adding 158:6</p> <p>Addison 5:3,15 6:21 7:5,13 13:20,24 24:1 25:5,16,21 26:2,8,15 27:20,23 28:3,9,13, 15,18,24 29:6,9 30:4, 10,14 36:19 37:20 38:3 43:7 44:1,6,8,14, 17 46:7 47:4 51:21 52:4,10 55:1,6 58:11, 19 66:5,8,13,17 72:3, 9 74:9,15,19 77:24 78:10,14 115:8,25 121:5,9,22 122:6,11 126:12,17 127:18,23 134:1,8,15 136:1,9 139:6,12 140:11,13 158:11,14,16,20 163:10,21 166:16,20 175:17,21 177:16,20, 24 180:10,18 183:1,9, 13 185:12,17 188:12, 20,23 189:3 193:8,14, 17 194:2</p> <p>addition 10:6 131:7 148:1 157:25 175:10</p> <p>additional 13:3 25:12 43:16,19 63:3, 24 65:24 69:2 75:6 76:13 77:1 144:2 145:11 194:6</p> <p>Additionally 8:4 12:5 33:15 128:8 130:8</p> <p>address 12:1 13:21 30:11,24 38:4 52:5 55:7,10 58:20 60:18</p>	<p>61:7,19 62:21 63:19 65:21 66:14 72:16 74:16 78:11 84:24 89:8 92:8 93:11 95:7 99:14,17 102:4 109:15 111:4 116:1 122:8 126:18 127:24 134:16 136:10 139:13 140:20,22 143:9,17 146:13 150:10 154:13,25 157:17 158:21 163:22 166:21 170:15 172:20 174:21,23 175:22 177:25 180:19 183:10 185:18 189:4 190:20</p> <p>addressed 32:25 62:9</p> <p>addressing 149:16</p> <p>adjacent 171:10</p> <p>adjudicatory 8:4 11:5</p> <p>administration 175:7</p> <p>Administrative 5:17</p> <p>admirable 60:10</p> <p>adopted 51:9</p> <p>adopts 54:23</p> <p>adults 21:21,22</p> <p>advance 50:2,4 75:9</p> <p>advanced 49:17 51:7,9 147:12</p> <p>advancements 192:5</p> <p>advancing 85:24</p> <p>advantage 100:22 127:13 188:7</p> <p>adversely 131:4</p> <p>advice 14:14</p> <p>advisors 72:20</p> <p>Advisory 119:25</p> <p>advocates 16:10,19 183:16</p> <p>aerodrome 43:4</p> <p>aesthetic 156:8</p> <p>aesthetically 133:14</p> <p>Affairs 5:23</p> <p>affect 23:2 76:5 145:22 149:11</p> <p>affected 22:12 50:19,20</p> <p>affirmation 11:23</p> <p>afford 41:14,15 114:1 149:18</p> <p>affordable 165:17</p> <p>age 13:17 30:8 38:1 47:2 52:2 55:4 58:17 66:11 74:13 78:8 84:21 89:5 92:5 93:8 95:4 99:11 102:1</p>	<p>109:12 111:1 115:23 122:4 126:15 127:21 134:13 136:7 139:10 140:17 143:6 146:20 150:7 157:14 158:18 163:19 166:18 170:12 172:17 174:18 175:19 177:22 180:16 183:7 185:15 189:1</p> <p>agencies 59:14 62:20 63:9 129:13 187:3</p> <p>agency 14:9 96:4 191:2</p> <p>agnostic 103:15</p> <p>agree 90:1 115:14 169:6</p> <p>agreed 54:3</p> <p>agreement 34:2 169:9</p> <p>agricultural 118:11 141:10</p> <p>Agriculture 14:11</p> <p>ahead 43:7 85:3 89:12 92:8 95:8 99:15 104:8 109:16 111:7 150:10 157:18 188:7</p> <p>air 53:2 79:19 82:17, 19 87:7,12 88:19 114:11,25 130:10,14, 25 166:4 178:18 186:3,22 187:21</p> <p>airport 43:4 114:18 119:21 120:11 142:19 179:9</p> <p>airwaves 116:11</p> <p>aka 19:21</p> <p>Akshai 180:11,16, 20,23</p> <p>alarmed 58:11</p> <p>algae 76:23 77:5</p> <p>algal 149:2</p> <p>alive 90:14 105:10</p> <p>allegations 71:5</p> <p>alleged 71:3</p> <p>allowed 45:23 152:4 allowing 72:4 167:2</p> <p>Allport 150:3</p> <p>alluded 96:25</p> <p>Altamont 117:12</p> <p>alter 82:21 149:7</p> <p>alternative 165:4</p> <p>altitudes 32:2</p> <p>amazing 131:9</p> <p>amended 116:18</p> <p>amendment 112:15</p> <p>America 10:14 19:10 144:4 174:2 188:4</p> <p>American 31:8 39:1, 2 55:16,18 89:18,19, 22 93:20 124:22</p>	<p>130:18,24 141:16 155:3</p> <p>Americans 23:12 48:4</p> <p>Americas 171:7</p> <p>Amherst 157:20</p> <p>amount 33:11 43:2 97:9,17 105:18 129:24 160:8 181:11 182:3</p> <p>amounts 81:17 96:8</p> <p>ample 31:4</p> <p>amplified 83:18</p> <p>analyses 160:11</p> <p>analysis 65:15 160:9</p> <p>analyze 160:13</p> <p>ancestors 167:5</p> <p>anchor 50:3</p> <p>and/or 57:20</p> <p>Andrew 71:1 174:24</p> <p>Andy 174:16,18 175:1</p> <p>Angeles 52:8</p> <p>animals 31:2,5</p> <p>announced 122:18</p> <p>annually 10:10 63:1</p> <p>answering 184:18</p> <p>answers 134:25 169:5</p> <p>anti 39:24</p> <p>anticipate 55:22</p> <p>anxious 100:13 173:21</p> <p>anymore 28:11</p> <p>anytime 70:23</p> <p>apiece 18:24</p> <p>apologies 66:8</p> <p>apologize 13:13 24:2 134:9 188:20</p> <p>apparatus 97:2</p> <p>apparently 34:1</p> <p>appealing 76:18</p> <p>appearance 6:23 7:15</p> <p>appearances 6:10</p> <p>applaud 85:7 179:23</p> <p>applauding 121:25</p> <p>applause 78:1</p> <p>applicant 6:12 9:15 62:18 68:15 70:6 155:7 191:2</p> <p>application 5:10 6:4 7:19 9:8 10:18,23 12:5 43:19 68:2 69:19 71:17 72:7 101:11 103:6,10 166:12 186:17</p> <p>applications 102:22</p> <p>applied 6:15</p> <p>applies 71:9</p>	<p>appreciates 12:17 59:20 75:2</p> <p>appreciation 135:17</p> <p>appreciative 173:10</p> <p>apprentices 137:18</p> <p>approach 6:7</p> <p>approached 182:1</p> <p>appropriately- lengthed 43:14</p> <p>approval 67:16 75:8,11 76:11 85:14 88:24 93:1 98:10 99:6 193:1</p> <p>approvals 54:7</p> <p>approve 51:19 88:17 133:23 180:5 182:22 188:9</p> <p>approved 27:9 97:9 151:6,7,14,17 177:9</p> <p>approximately 10:10,11 18:22 66:23 140:5</p> <p>April 139:22 187:9</p> <p>aquatic 130:3 149:11</p> <p>Arabia 17:1</p> <p>architect 170:20</p> <p>archway 106:20</p> <p>area 9:19 20:5,22 32:12 53:15 56:7 66:24 79:19 88:16 100:21 103:24 106:15 122:19 131:1 132:12 159:17 173:5,7 179:1, 22 186:5</p> <p>areas 40:3,19 49:18 55:25 82:3 86:15 100:17</p> <p>Argonne 156:9</p> <p>argue 107:11</p> <p>arguing 109:5,6</p> <p>arguments 135:10</p> <p>arise 62:22</p> <p>arm's 119:11,16</p> <p>Army 20:6</p> <p>arousing 124:11</p> <p>arrived 11:14</p> <p>arsenic 21:1,25</p> <p>article 19:24 20:1,21 96:21 145:19 146:2,9 173:16</p> <p>articles 15:4</p> <p>Ashtabula 129:8</p> <p>Asim 14:7</p> <p>asks 72:17</p> <p>aspect 7:24 168:19</p> <p>aspects 154:16</p> <p>assess 56:24 60:5 68:4,10</p> <p>assessments 60:8</p>
--	--	---	---	---

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018

PUCO Hearing

assets 70:14 133:13 185:10 assigned 5:7,17 assist 159:7 Association 89:19 130:18 175:3 Association's 130:24 associations 74:22 75:14,24 76:8 161:4 assure 172:4 asthma 110:7,9 130:20 178:21,23 179:13 Astroturfers 125:15 Astroturfing 124:6 atmosphere 81:18 attack 124:24 attacks 80:3 attend 80:25 91:15 attendance 85:17 attended 95:19 195:5 attention 163:5 191:1 attitude 176:22 attorney 71:1 152:11 attracted 125:13 attraction 32:9 Auch 163:16 audacity 80:13 audible 83:17 Audubon 32:13 52:7,14,20 53:5 89:16 125:2 142:10 145:13, 18 146:11 167:20 169:8 August 8:6 11:5 18:7 79:21 195:11 Australia 39:22 Authority 122:17 173:20 authorizations 8:15 authorize 8:11 automobiles 130:13 availability 115:16 145:23 Avalon 30:13 Avenue 7:3 52:8 92:10 93:13 99:18 163:24 166:23 172:22 174:25 189:7 average 60:17 86:18 140:1 avian 8:20 60:4,6 62:6 160:10 avid 85:19 89:14 128:10 avoid 53:21 82:10,14	Avon 86:10 95:10 aware 39:25 awesome 19:22 180:14 <hr/> B <hr/> back 28:18 38:22 39:18 67:15 73:4 91:5 94:23 117:23 141:7 188:19 191:24 192:10 backbone 148:25 backed 84:4 backyard 121:17 Bald 61:1 banded 64:7 bankruptcy 97:21 barges 137:2,3 167:14 barrel 80:15 barrier 82:6 base 19:2 22:19 148:17 160:4 based 32:15 36:6 52:6 62:15 70:7 124:24 143:21 baseless 124:19 basement 157:10 bases 125:14 basically 32:7 115:14 basin 32:11 53:13 56:3 86:5 118:11 basis 77:11 Bassett 74:18 bat 8:20 45:19,20,22 60:4,6 62:7,21 145:4 152:20 153:14 160:10 184:10 bathing 24:19 bats 45:7,16,17 81:24 82:15 92:22 124:16 145:2 battle 76:23 Bauman 55:2,4,9,11 Bay 13:23 146:24 Beach 128:1 144:14 beaches 149:3 beacon 120:4,5 beacons 119:23 120:16 Beanstalk 81:19 bearing 116:23 beautiful 45:19 46:1 47:9,15 87:6 126:9 149:15 189:15,18,22 beauty 36:23 149:24 190:2 began 110:16 159:6 begin 5:4 6:9 8:5 11:17 13:10 54:8 126:7 140:20 172:21 174:22	beginning 79:8 begs 17:1 behalf 6:10,12,14 7:1,8 39:1 71:12 74:21 93:16 108:14 148:6,10 159:2 166:8 175:6 178:4 181:2 beholden 39:10 believes 78:24 belong 23:25 55:24 belongs 37:5 Belt 19:24 beneficial 100:10 benefit 70:25 98:5 113:8 147:24 154:20, 21 180:6 benefits 53:2 72:1 87:5 158:1 162:14,24 163:1 164:19 177:7 182:23 Benesch 7:7 benthic 160:10 Berea 178:2 179:8 bet 88:14 Beth 193:24 bias 65:16 biased 64:20 65:6 big 24:18 32:9 94:16 102:24 103:21 104:16 105:16 106:4,5,10 123:8 135:20 153:13 184:24 biggest 93:25 145:6 billion 49:13 72:25 132:3 billionaire 22:9 26:25 27:11 37:8 billionaires 48:22 billions 77:3 bills 165:17 Binford 7:10 bird 31:8,9 32:12,14 40:19 53:14,15 55:13, 16,17,18,24 56:7 59:3,11 62:21 82:9,10 89:17,18,19,21,22 90:13,17 91:6,7 93:19,20 138:19 142:14 145:4,6 146:6 153:13 155:3,4 184:10,12 birder 89:14 birders 36:24 Birding 89:18 birds 31:2,4,13,16, 25 32:2,10,23 42:14 45:6 52:21 53:1,8,11, 22 54:4,15,20,25 56:9 64:7,10 81:24 82:2,5, 9,18 90:7,10,19,25 91:3,4,8,19,22 92:21 94:16 108:19 109:6	117:3,10,13,22 124:15 145:2,21,24 146:4 153:17,22 154:5,7 168:17 169:7, 20 birth 21:7 bit 39:7 42:25 78:5 108:4 135:19 Black 31:9 55:12,15, 17 59:3,11 89:17,21 93:19 155:4 blade 82:8,11 blades 32:18 81:13 82:10,14,18 83:7 105:21 108:8 117:18 118:1 119:9 161:24 blasts 83:17 blatant 144:14 Blazey 7:9 blends 39:5 blob 19:25 20:2 blocks 164:11 blooms 76:23 77:5 149:2 blowing 102:23 106:9 blows 83:24 board 5:6,18,20 6:6 8:10 10:21 12:4,17 13:2 14:6,10,14,16,17 26:6 28:5 30:18,22 31:3 46:9 52:17 53:19 54:13,18,22 55:14 58:5 64:1 65:25 66:20 68:1,14,25 69:5,12,18 70:23 72:12,20 73:22 75:3 80:19 85:13 88:17 92:25 98:1 99:22 115:2,5,17 121:13 124:14 133:23 135:5 151:20,24 156:25 161:19 167:19 169:2,15,22 175:6 180:4 182:22 183:24 184:16 186:17 194:17 board's 8:6,25 9:5 13:4 55:19 56:17 boardwalk 189:19 boat 100:15 boater 85:19 86:8 100:7 116:8 boaters 37:1 75:17 175:4 Boating 74:21 75:13,24 76:8 Bodi 58:23 body 24:22 136:25 body's 130:16 Boggs 158:23 159:4 boilers 87:3 bolster 108:11	bond 97:8,17 boombox 33:20 boost 186:2 booster 135:20 border 21:23 47:18 born 166:10 167:9 bottled 24:13,17 bottom 17:10 18:9 19:1,4,6,14 20:3,8 21:3 22:23 26:24 27:5,12 81:23 87:2 108:23,24 bought 80:15 Boulevard 102:7 109:18 180:22 bound 137:25 bounteous 126:5 Bounty 95:9 box 19:18 22:19 76:12 boxes 19:2,5 brackish 17:4 brain 130:6 brand 50:14 Bratenahl 151:1 break 101:7 breakdown 143:25 breaker 88:11 140:10 breathe 88:19 Brecksville 140:23 breeding 52:23 149:7 Bremmer 172:12 Brian 157:5,14,19,21 bribed 125:6 Bridge/route 137:8 Bridget 139:15 briefly 28:13,14 45:10 157:23 brighter 120:15 bring 25:20 43:16 48:17 113:21 114:18 127:1 181:20,25 182:5 Brittany 5:23 broader 161:19 broke 103:13 Brook 126:20 Brotherhood 86:2 132:20 brought 119:22 145:8 153:9 154:13 171:23 Bryan 74:10,13,17, 20 BSBO 56:1 57:16 59:20 64:8 65:8 bug 120:14 build 6:15 16:7,14 34:10 36:10 68:22 69:7 93:2 139:3
--	--	---	--	--

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 **PUCO Hearing**

<p>182:20 186:4 building 34:24 39:18 46:18 67:22 69:13 76:13 107:18 108:23 132:21 133:17 136:16,20 137:4 138:1,11,15,23 139:2 buildings 90:10,25 145:7,16 built 21:17 73:6 74:7 141:19 180:5 bulk 9:21 Bullock 172:10 188:17,21 189:1,5,6 burdened 81:20 burdensome 160:1 Bureau 139:22 Burke 114:18,22 burn 186:22 187:25 burned 81:16 86:21 159:19 168:7 burning 87:3 94:2 178:6,11 186:23 business 49:11 50:5 95:25 97:4 151:15,22 160:21 173:11,17 176:23 193:24 businesses 34:21 35:2 75:14 148:17 173:14 Butler 5:21 butterflies 42:23 buy 24:13 27:11 34:12 103:14 106:25 buying 86:15 buys 26:25 by-products 130:11 bypass 130:15</p> <hr/> <p align="center">C</p> <hr/> <p>Cabin 140:22 cables 10:7 118:17, 24 California 52:9 call 12:11 20:5 35:8 182:15 called 33:20 83:1 145:19 156:12 189:16,19 191:13 calling 11:17 13:10 calls 40:11 164:17 camera 61:11 Cameron 140:11 Canada 15:21 34:22 35:4 41:5 42:3 114:13 124:24 Canadian 21:24 Canadians 23:12 107:11 cancer 21:7 candela 120:4</p>	<p>Candlewood 126:23 Canton 167:19 169:8 cap 34:17 capable 56:19 capacity 10:4,5 14:14 84:1 98:4 122:22 136:18 148:6 162:7 capital 110:7 131:21 capitalism 26:18 capitalize 49:19 171:18 captioned 5:9 captured 64:10 car 86:19 carbon 105:17 carcasses 81:23 117:6 carcinogens 20:24 21:6 187:1 card 193:25 cardiovascular 130:20 care 40:21 46:2 183:22 190:25 career 47:21 159:6 careful 100:25 107:20 168:11 Carl 84:19,21,25 85:4,19 Carolina 73:2,10,14 Carpenters 151:13 carry 39:11 111:21 162:19 cars 86:21,25 87:2 145:7 179:4 case 5:8 6:11 7:25 8:1 9:1,15 10:18 12:3, 6 45:15 52:19 95:24 103:8 147:7 151:15, 18 152:12 157:1 169:23 cases 33:4 103:18 catalyst 88:5 catalytic 171:16 184:7 catalyze 128:23 132:6 catered 179:15 cats 145:7,16 caused 33:16 87:17 118:10 caution 77:11 170:4 Cedar 167:10 cedes 111:15 CEI 104:3 celebrate 46:5 center 52:7 90:15 126:1 133:20 141:20, 23,25 189:24</p>	<p>centers 123:10 central 32:11 53:13 56:3 67:5 86:5 cents 41:8,9,11,12 105:6 107:13 centuries 82:4 167:24 century 182:10 CEO 39:2 160:24 173:19 ceramics 104:14 certainty 77:9 certificate 5:11 6:15 54:21 80:21 92:23 97:7,13 152:16 certify 195:5 chain 173:25 176:10 182:17 chains 132:9 chair 55:12 193:20 chaired 51:6 Chairman 14:6 16:7, 19 17:16,24 18:13 21:13 22:8,14,17 23:7,16,22 25:4 29:13 30:1 85:12 chance 26:11 29:23 43:25 123:4 188:7 change 131:24 145:21 146:7,14 149:17 181:21 182:17 191:13,15 192:16 changed 64:14 121:1 changing 61:14 178:5 charge 34:11 36:11 chartered 48:16 Chatham-kent 40:23,24 cheap 105:7 cheaper 165:16 cheapest 143:22 chemical 149:10 chemicals 21:2,16 22:1 Chesapeake 7:3 chicken 138:20 chief 154:1 childhood 178:25 children 21:21 23:13 24:14 87:13 167:22 170:7 180:7 chime 160:20 China 108:6 chorus 160:21 Chris 6:18 166:16 167:3 Christine 166:18,22 167:1 Cincinnati 131:20</p>	<p>Cincinnati's 131:17 circuit 88:11 Circular 120:1 circulated 133:1 cited 96:18 cities 48:1,3 110:6 130:22 181:17 182:14 citizen 38:24 45:18 104:6 108:16 135:18 157:23 164:3,15 166:8 citizens 15:19 18:21 22:11 24:25 70:1 80:24 97:19 98:6,9 99:2 112:13 113:23 147:24 150:25 159:8 173:3 184:5 city 18:16 47:9,11, 17,19 49:9 50:14 51:4,8 72:12 94:17 107:4,5 110:8 126:1 127:8 129:6 135:23 137:24 139:4 147:9 158:2 165:21 176:3, 17,25 177:1,3,9,10 181:17 189:8 city's 51:6 civilly 22:10 CLA-1 20:7,21 22:21 claiming 34:23 clarification 63:5,24 clarified 65:13 clarify 65:11 69:7 clean 9:20 16:6,21 17:21 50:15,16 51:1 53:2 85:24 87:4,13 92:15 94:7 110:3 128:20,24 129:19 140:7 142:3,12 164:4 176:20 180:6 181:12, 22 186:3 188:8 cleaner 159:25 165:3,18 cleanest 20:18 cleaning 20:16 cleanliness 76:24 clear 41:16 48:23 56:1 64:21 76:15 190:5,6 cleared 68:20 Cleveland 18:20 20:2 21:19 22:6 23:6, 17 34:16 43:10 47:11, 13,19 49:8,16,21 50:11 51:4 81:1,8 86:3,6 87:8,16,22,24 88:6 89:11,14 90:8, 11,17,25 91:17 94:17 96:13,19 102:8 103:9 104:6 105:11 108:3, 12 109:18 110:5 113:6 114:21 116:16</p>	<p>122:10,17 125:19,24 127:8 128:2,6,15,22, 25 129:6,7,19 131:1, 19 132:21 133:19 135:9 136:12,15 138:23 139:20,24 140:5 143:14 147:8,9 150:22,25 151:3,20 153:21 157:7 158:24 159:19 160:25 162:2, 15 163:3,25 164:9 165:21 166:10 170:17,25 173:4,11, 14,17,22 174:8 178:21 181:15 182:13 183:12,25 185:2 186:11 189:10,12 191:18 192:2 195:10 Cleveland's 18:16 131:24 135:20 Clevelanders 15:19 18:11 23:11 178:17 cliff 189:22 Clifton 109:18 164:8 climate 52:20,22 123:3 145:21 146:13 148:20 149:17 178:5 181:21 182:17 191:13,15 192:16 Clinic 114:21 close 23:5 105:12 144:20 149:2 168:8 closely 64:25 closer 129:1 closing 133:16 Club 7:2 31:19 89:17 125:1 129:16 151:5 coal 14:20 39:19 86:10,14,19,20,21,23, 25 87:2 129:25 130:9 178:11 184:25 coast 48:18 49:14 86:6 114:12 132:4,11 159:15 coastline 15:21 128:10 coffers 36:14 collaboration 9:25 collaborative 54:19 colleagues 128:15 collect 90:13 collected 64:7 collection 10:7 53:20 54:10 57:9 65:5 90:17 college 137:25 collision 8:21 82:8 colonies 145:24 color 131:6 Columbus 6:19 7:3, 12 8:7 103:17 131:18, 20</p>
---	---	---	--	--

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 PUCO Hearing

<p>column 149:10 combination 90:9 comment 85:7 95:23 186:15 193:19 comments 10:16 11:2,10 12:24 13:1 25:23 26:5 28:5 38:12 40:2 43:24 44:12 46:11,12,23 48:20 52:15,16,18 59:16 65:23 68:23 74:23 108:1 115:17 139:17 142:23 155:1,2 163:6 175:8 194:15 commerce 111:21 127:9 commercial 68:11 123:24 149:12 159:21 167:13 Commission 47:8 135:11,23 152:7 195:15 Commission's 68:14 commissioned 147:15 Commissioner 108:13 commissioners 184:1 193:1 commitment 62:24 committed 51:4 62:18 75:19 96:14 148:19 149:14 187:17 committee 51:6 55:13 Commodore 175:5 common 87:23 communities 131:5,6 133:11 148:25 165:7 187:23 community 49:3 50:3 57:2 109:21 135:19 148:18 160:22 164:18 165:24 176:8 177:6,8 183:23 190:1, 9,10,11,15 192:11 compact 190:10 companies 71:4 113:1,7 114:17,20 132:13,17 168:14 176:14 companies' 125:8 company 14:20,21 19:9,12,13 27:7,18 34:2,5 37:7 69:21 70:8,10,15 80:13,22 85:24 154:23 173:13 company's 104:5 compare 120:8 compared 23:8 103:23 145:15 160:2</p>	<p>comparison 120:13 compatibility 152:16 compelling 101:2 compete 105:12 competitive 48:25 compile 9:6 complaints 93:25 complete 41:19 completed 65:21 174:11 completely 64:16 71:23 117:21 124:19 completing 59:6 completion 6:7 complex 148:23 complying 8:13,15 component 107:5 161:10 components 49:20 138:7 composite 81:15 composition 149:10 compromise 57:18, 23 compromised 58:2 concealed 123:25 concentration 102:24 182:18 concept 59:22 concern 53:6 60:14, 25 61:8,16 94:16 160:6 171:24 190:18 191:9 concerned 99:3 190:17 concerns 59:17 63:3 66:1 72:16 124:1 125:10 143:17,19 144:9,22 conclude 25:11 121:7 155:20 163:4 194:12 concluded 186:12 194:20 concludes 188:14 193:8 concluding 26:13 conclusion 12:15 121:8 125:24 146:12 concur 23:21 63:9 64:16 condition 63:5,6,9, 23 64:3,13,17 conditional 75:8,10 conditioners 79:19 conditions 8:12 9:11 54:6,15,24 57:22 60:13 61:15,18 64:17 65:1 92:23 97:7</p>	<p>Conduct 72:19 conducted 8:1 156:14 162:22 confidential 27:2 70:19 confined 118:22 confirmed 164:25 conflict 72:13,14,17 conflicts 70:22 71:5 confusing 118:14 conked 82:11 consequence 94:4 consequences 40:22 146:15 Conservancy 31:9 55:16,18 89:20,23 93:20 155:4 conservation 32:14 53:16 55:13 182:4,7 considerate 12:21 consideration 13:5 194:17 considerations 61:23 considered 12:2 13:2 22:15 130:14 152:7 170:1 181:24 consistent 176:6 consisting 66:23 69:10 consists 20:22 consortium 159:8 constantly 49:9 constraints 57:19 construct 5:12 7:22 10:2 construction 8:11 22:20 54:8 60:6,16 61:18 74:25 85:15 87:20 105:24 127:3 132:9,16,22 137:6 138:5,9 161:3 172:2 187:7,13,20 consultant 85:23 consultants 37:15 consumed 21:8 consumers 165:7, 18 consumption 130:4 contact 67:3 194:9 contained 80:3 contaminate 149:3 contending 80:4 continue 57:9 62:19 118:21 130:23 165:16 193:3 continued 20:13 186:20,21,24 187:13 continues 76:22 126:2 153:22 187:7, 21</p>	<p>continuing 193:23 Contra 80:1 83:2 contracted 34:16 contradictions 68:19 contrived 124:2 controller 173:12 convenience 153:4 conversation 51:18 194:1 convinced 76:1,19 cooperate 50:23 coordination 62:19 Coordinator 109:21 copies 144:2 145:11 copy 9:13 11:12 25:22 52:18 134:4 corners 191:4 corporation 10:1 50:2 70:7 129:5 corporations 22:7 Corps 20:6 correct 195:7 corresponds 162:8, 11 corruption 71:3 cost 16:15 34:15 35:1,7,11 41:6 104:11,21 105:4,9,23 106:13 107:2 113:22 143:20 165:11 191:11,12,16 costly 35:3 costs 27:10 29:19 34:20 97:10 113:18 143:22 144:7 165:15 council 7:2 47:10 109:25 129:17 132:22 151:7,13 177:9 Councilman 46:24 158:2 189:9 count 108:10 counted 149:25 counties 71:7 129:8 147:17 184:1 counting 24:10 countless 38:11 countries 32:20 45:8 162:10 country 43:16 49:18 110:6 130:5 131:2 counts 20:23 county 5:13 33:5 43:10 72:12 80:2 96:13 109:22,25 122:17 129:9 141:10, 14 147:8 167:3,8 181:7,8 187:12 couple 17:19 49:25 62:24 78:17 150:23, 24 151:21 157:6 171:24 189:16</p>	<p>court 11:7,9,13,21 116:3 134:5 140:22 152:2,11 covered 83:7 184:5 craft 132:23 138:11 crafts 138:11 craftsmen 137:4 crafty 112:15 Crain's 173:17 Crane 136:2,7,11,13 cranes 137:2 crazy 34:13 create 27:17 34:24 41:22 67:1 131:9 140:4 144:25 166:5 186:1 created 87:20 88:19 137:17 144:16 147:17 191:20,21 creates 73:13 creating 73:19 creation 72:22 87:21 112:20 113:12 131:21 192:15 creature 42:23 creatures 168:24 credit 37:9 credits 34:5 crew 91:18 crewed 83:11 crib 18:17,23 21:19 22:7 106:2 116:17,24 133:9 criminally 22:10 29:21 crisscross 83:15 criteria 53:12 152:18 153:6 critical 149:6 criticize 154:11 criticized 135:1 crony 26:18 crops 16:3 cross 153:16 crown 75:18 77:18 crucial 138:14 Cuisinart 83:1 culture 127:10 cumulated 20:23 Cuomo 71:2 current 8:16 16:13 21:5,14 23:2 58:2 175:6 curtailment 54:14 customer 170:25 customers 9:23 cut 191:4 cutting 165:23 Cuyahoga 5:13 43:10 47:16 80:2 89:16 94:1 96:13 109:22,25 118:18</p>
--	---	---	--	--

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 **PUCO Hearing**

<p>122:17 129:7 141:10 142:10 145:17 146:10 147:8 168:7 181:7</p> <hr/> <p align="center">D</p> <hr/> <p>daily 24:20 damage 77:15 187:21 Dan 101:23 102:1,6,9 112:20 114:6 danger 56:12 dangerous 187:18 data 53:19 54:10 56:24 57:6,9 60:16 64:6,20 65:4,8,15 90:8 93:23 131:16 142:1 143:24 171:14 184:14 192:24 date 63:13 dated 68:15 97:5 120:2 Dave 69:1 David 30:6,8,12,15 95:2,4,9,11 109:10, 12,17,19,20 172:13 Davis 172:11 dawn 8:18 day 18:21 24:16 79:11 86:22 90:22 134:24 162:19 164:14 173:8 179:11 190:5 195:11 days 24:10 79:9,15, 23 dead 90:16 118:8,10 155:13,15 deal 107:24 182:16 Dealer 96:20 dealers 75:16 dearly 167:11 death 82:8,15 130:19 deaths 146:6 debate 135:22 163:7 debating 49:4 Debs 52:7 debt 41:3 decade 56:15 60:23 79:1 181:18 decades 94:24 124:18 148:12 167:24 deceptive 91:16 112:8 decide 12:10 108:2 decides 135:11 decision 12:4 24:23 decisions 59:13 61:22 declared 41:17 177:10 decommission 97:23</p>	<p>decommissioning 74:4 97:10,18 dedicated 148:13 dedication 135:6 deep 15:23 19:2,9 deeply 130:17 defects 21:7 defend 85:9 Defense 129:16 defenses 130:16 defined 67:2 defines 64:17 defining 177:1,6 degrees 116:23 deliver 9:19 demand 79:18 129:25 130:8 161:10 Dembinski 155:25 156:3 157:5,14,19,21 demo 184:8 demonstrate 67:19 176:21 demonstrated 8:19 161:22 demonstrates 73:14 demonstration 6:16 56:22 57:4 110:10 demonstration- 68:3 Dempsey 7:10 densest 190:9 deny 80:20 Department 5:23 14:11,12 53:18 54:2, 17 96:3 109:22 119:25 156:11 157:7 186:8,9,11 depend 37:3 107:9 149:13 depends 110:2 depletion 118:12 deposit 97:16,19 deposited 22:2 depth 19:16 31:22 depths 15:22 32:5 descriptions 9:7 desecrate 80:16 Desert 103:3 design 59:10 62:16 65:4,10 127:3 designated 32:12 56:6,13 designed 19:5 61:22 147:23 172:4 187:4 destination 77:13 destroy 149:6 destruction 84:13 detail 191:1 details 95:15,22 96:2 97:3 98:8,19</p>	<p>162:20 detection 61:10 64:3,18 determination 8:25 69:6 70:12 169:24 determine 145:4 185:9 determined 40:12 69:11 143:23 determines 69:18 determining 81:8 detract 83:8 detrimental 104:9 Detroit 179:1 develop 26:24 27:5 62:4 65:9 185:25 developed 129:10 144:6 169:14,19 developer 34:3,10 41:9 82:25 developers 42:11 43:5 45:11 68:21 69:7 Developers' 82:22 developing 56:19 68:10 182:8 development 10:1 14:8 32:21 48:16 50:15 53:23 78:22 85:23 86:8 122:15 129:5 130:7 133:21 135:21 147:13,25 159:9 160:23 164:22 167:16 176:3 182:11, 24 Dever 146:18,20,23 147:1 devise 82:13 dialogue 193:23 Dickinson 6:17 die 15:12 82:13 difficult 110:8 diligence 162:22 170:4 182:2 dilute 57:20 dime 144:19 diminished 120:6 dioxins 21:25 directed 14:17 28:25 65:2 direction 41:19 65:11 106:7,9 directly 19:4 21:18 22:11 80:6 Director 14:7,8,9,10, 12 52:13 59:3 67:25 126:23 141:9 148:9 164:3 176:2 193:21 Directors 55:14 dirty 40:23,24 86:15 disadvantaged 137:20,22</p>	<p>disagree 120:22 disappointed 75:7 disaster 17:23 40:9, 25 41:19 42:4 94:4,6, 12,20 103:18 disasters 39:22 disclosure 96:10 99:5 180:25 disconcerting 95:19,21 disconnected 103:1 discounts 73:7 discovered 168:20 discrepancies 42:10 discuss 119:18 discussed 22:17 55:21 75:25 119:22 145:20 discussing 49:4 discussion 28:17 31:12 67:5 119:1 145:19 disease 130:21 disguised 124:2 dismayed 84:9 dismissed 160:17 disparage 48:19 displacement 82:6 display 124:14 disposal 118:22 disruptions 142:20 distance 119:13 120:4 district 47:15,19 49:24 179:1 disturbance 118:13 disturbed 22:24 79:24 116:9 diversification 171:21 diversify 166:4 diversity 190:13 Division 59:5 DNR 59:5 dock 122:22 docketing 9:5 115:18 doctrine 28:22 80:24 111:12 154:14, 16,19 document 40:5 59:19 60:12 61:14 documentation 155:8 documented 31:3 33:3,16 documents 73:3 190:11,25 DOE 98:20</p>	<p>dog 79:11 dogs 79:13 doldrums 79:22 dollar 104:21 dollars 36:8,9 49:13 77:4 141:15 domestically 132:1 dominates 123:22 Don 55:2,4,9,11 84:15 136:2,7,11,13 door 39:18 doors 87:1 157:8 164:17 181:9 doorstep 165:25 DOSECCA 18:8 downtown 90:10,25 downtown 179:6 dozen 71:7 dramatically 165:12 dream 22:16 98:24 dredging 118:16,20 Drew 172:9 drilling 70:10 186:23 187:10,15,20 drink 15:12 17:8 24:20 88:18 drinkable 23:10 67:2 186:3 drinking 15:14,15, 17 16:3,8 17:13 18:19 19:17 20:18 21:5 23:3,20,24 24:9,19 29:16 67:7 80:10 117:7 129:23 136:25 187:6 Drive 30:13 85:1 111:6 126:20 143:11 178:2 185:21 driven 35:10 80:13 113:18 driver 137:13 160:3 drives 192:1 driving 44:4 drop 73:16 dropped 143:21 165:12 ducks 31:23 due 95:15 117:7 118:4,12 133:3 162:22 170:4 182:1 187:3 duly 13:18 30:8 38:1 47:2 52:2 55:4 58:18 66:11 74:13 78:8 84:22 89:5 92:6 93:8 95:4 99:11 102:1 109:12 111:1 115:23 122:4 126:15 127:21 134:13 136:7 139:11 140:18 143:6 146:20 150:8 157:15 158:19 163:19 166:19 170:13</p>
---	---	---	--	---

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 PUCO Hearing

<p>172:18 174:18 175:20 177:22 180:16 183:7 185:15 189:1 dump 86:25 dumped 118:20 dusk 8:18 dust 179:4 duty 192:14 dwellers 168:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> <p>Eagle 61:2 earlier 131:16 132:2 168:5 earliest 167:5 early 20:11 22:4 44:4 108:19,21 130:19 178:25 Earth's 15:10 easier 25:22 easily 108:10 east 6:19 49:14 79:10 92:10 114:12 116:3 132:4,11 136:11 159:15 175:24 Eastlake 86:10,20 Eckerle 183:5,7,11, 14 eco 81:21 ecological 55:22 56:23,25 57:11,25 ecology 56:20 Econia 172:14 economic 57:19 67:4 72:24 73:9 77:12 86:7 96:7 131:15,25 147:13 160:3,18 163:1 167:15 177:5 191:23 192:11 economically 76:18 105:12 133:14 148:14 166:7 economics 98:19 economies 53:3 economy 35:24 41:1 108:11 131:17,18 135:12 152:25 165:7 186:2 192:1 ecosystem 32:8 148:23 Ed 99:9,11,16,20 edge 165:23 Edgewater 119:4,10 144:13 164:8,11 170:20 edible 67:3 edict 107:1 Edinboro 150:12 education 141:20, 23 effect 33:20 76:3,7 114:15</p>	<p>effective 62:5 112:2 124:10 effectively 113:2 effects 29:14 33:15, 17 48:11 104:10 125:11 156:14 178:9 efficiency 155:9 efficient 104:23 effort 51:5,14 57:7,8 59:21 efforts 125:9 159:12 176:7 182:7 elder 21:22 elderly 24:15 elected 35:5 48:5 electric 5:12 7:22 9:22 10:7 118:1 152:25 165:17 176:14 electrical 83:21 85:25 86:2 87:13,19 88:9,12 123:14,18,23 132:16,21 electricity 9:17,20 10:12 34:12 35:1,8,14 36:11,12 67:21 79:18 81:5 88:13 114:1 158:3 165:15 178:16, 17 188:6 element 33:25 elements 122:22 eliminate 117:22 Elizabeth 163:10,11 183:2 Ellman 163:12 embodied 176:23 embodies 190:14 embraced 176:13 embracing 162:5 Embrescia 140:14 Emily 159:3 emissions 50:19 51:3 52:24 123:8 165:20 emitted 86:10 emotional 95:17,18 emphasized 152:3 employees 71:25 employers 176:8 empty 87:2 191:8 encapsulation 159:23 encountered 63:7 encourage 9:12 28:4 125:16 133:23 161:19 162:19 169:15,22 170:3 182:21 185:7 end 39:6 178:14 184:19 193:25 endangered 31:7 45:20,22 56:13 61:1 63:6,15,17</p>	<p>endlessly 124:17 endorsement 129:14 endorsements 123:1 endorsing 125:2 endpoint 120:3 ends 82:17 energy 9:18,25 14:21 16:10,21 23:23 35:16,17 40:9 48:11, 15,18 49:11 50:16,18 51:1,8,9,11 52:13,25 53:5,23 56:25 70:9 71:3 81:7 83:23 85:7 90:1 92:16 98:3,4,16 105:11,18,19 106:25 110:3,4 113:17 123:14,22 125:6 126:5 128:21 129:4, 19 131:23 133:20 140:8 141:20 142:3, 12 143:16,21,23,24 146:4,14 147:5,6,12 148:7,11,15,20 149:22 151:9 156:11 158:4,6,7 159:10,24 160:2 162:5,15,17,24 164:4,20 165:2,4,19 166:5 170:25 171:20 176:12 177:7 181:13, 23 186:4,8 188:5,8 192:16 engaged 193:6 engaging 49:4 engineer 170:21 engineer's 9:2 Engineers 20:6 enjoy 111:20 128:11 189:21 190:2,19 enjoyment 36:22 37:4 148:22 enormous 105:18 ensure 76:2 105:24 106:1 149:23 162:22 ensures 65:4 enter 109:23 176:11 enterprise 127:10 enterprises 149:13 enthusiastic 125:8 enthusiasts 36:25 entire 31:25 53:24 64:11 78:16 133:18 177:7 entirety 195:6 entities 96:15,23 148:18 entitled 19:25 entity 112:6,12 entrance 9:12 entrepreneurial 176:22</p>	<p>environment 31:1 128:8 147:22 148:2 165:2,6 167:21 168:20 169:21 172:3 180:8 187:24 environmental 7:2 16:10 17:23 47:23 67:4 77:1 86:7 94:3, 12 118:24 124:1,21, 25 125:4,7 129:11,15, 16,17 151:7 152:16, 21 153:8 160:7,14 162:23 177:6 186:7, 14 environmentalist 179:21 environmentally 30:19 133:15 135:13 148:14 159:25 environments 172:5 envision 128:19 envy 182:19 EPA 14:8 20:6 equally 45:8 equipment 145:5 era 191:25 erecting 173:23 Eric 154:2,3 Erie 6:17 9:25 15:16 16:5,9,13,21,24 17:18 18:3,4,9,18 19:1,5,6, 17,22 20:1,4,8,9,17, 19 21:4,14 22:2,23 23:4,17 26:22,24 27:5,12 29:14 30:3 31:6,21 32:4,11 44:25 53:13 56:4 57:1 66:22,24,25 67:2,6,9, 21,23 68:6,12,19 69:3,4,11,23 70:11 72:17,24,25 73:12 74:2,7 75:1,17,22 76:4,9,14,25 77:4,9, 13,18 78:13,17,19 79:14,20 80:8,11 81:11,20,25 82:19 83:14 84:11 85:20 86:5,8 87:6 89:18,24 90:4,15,21 92:19 100:7,19 111:13 119:3 123:2,18 128:9, 20 129:4,9,22 130:2 153:11,14,21,23,24 154:4,5,20 164:11 165:25 166:13 167:5 175:4,12 179:20 186:1 188:4 189:13, 15 190:3 Erie's 15:20 19:14 21:5 22:25 36:22 76:20</p>	<p>erode 77:20 erosion 149:5 escrow 74:5 establish 60:4,20 established 63:25 ETP 187:2 ETP's 187:14 Euclid 120:25 175:24 176:3,13,18, 25 177:9 180:21 Euclid's 177:11 Europe 122:21 133:12 162:6 Europe's 144:24 European 32:20 162:4 Europeans 162:14 evaluate 62:11 evaluated 37:13 75:23 evaluating 30:18 evening 5:25 7:6 13:8 24:3 25:10 46:23 55:15 59:2 115:15 116:6,18 119:17,22 128:5 129:14 132:15 193:9 194:16 evening's 6:8 7:18 10:15 events 57:12 eventual 97:1 eventually 168:23 ever-increasing 169:12 Evergreen 55:10 everybody's 85:7 everyone's 194:15 evidence 11:4 45:12 65:1 67:18 124:18 125:15 evidencing 31:4 evil 183:18 evolve 173:25 evolved 50:4 exact 17:25 18:5 examined 156:19 169:2 exceeded 160:11 excellent 20:16 123:4 excited 141:18 excitement 122:14 161:1 181:12 exciting 133:17 exclusive 27:3,8 excuse 43:6 123:19 158:13 executed 186:6 Executive 67:25 148:9 exercise 127:11</p>
--	---	--	--	--

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 PUCO Hearing

exhibit 141:25 exhibits 142:2 exist 70:23 72:15 148:21 172:5 existence 61:25 existing 60:12 exit 157:9 expand 181:22 expanding 169:12 expansion 68:17 87:9 expect 118:3 162:18 expected 10:9 160:18 expensive 35:9 106:13 107:16 144:5 experience 35:19 experienced 142:21 171:10 181:5 experiment 19:20 35:20 61:22,23 62:25 65:20 expert 45:15 114:14 expertise 137:4 161:12 Expires 195:15 explain 115:19 exploding 49:12 131:25 exploration 133:21 express 66:1 expressed 160:6,25 161:5 191:9 expressions 123:25 extensive 145:5 extent 64:18 extinct 138:22 extinction 56:12 145:20 extract 187:25 extreme 82:17 170:3 extremely 48:8 86:4 106:12 124:10 136:25 168:11,18 eyesore 17:22 92:18 <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <hr/> FAA 119:25 fabricate 50:5 fabrications 124:15 fabulous 100:8 face 11:21 Facebook 146:10 facilities 68:11 97:24 141:22 156:22 facility 5:13 7:23 10:9,13 74:24 118:22 152:24 153:3 fact 9:6 86:24 176:24 181:25 189:11,23 191:22	factories 105:16 130:12 factors 74:1 factory 104:18,19 facts 95:15,22 98:7 101:1 116:13 120:22 121:12,19 failed 35:20 39:15,17 60:24 154:13,25 155:7,10 fails 74:1 153:5 191:10 failure 61:3 94:22 fair 40:2 fairgrounds 141:14, 18 Fairmount 102:7 fall 64:12 79:25 91:23 fallen 165:14 falling 91:20 131:13 Falls 185:21 Falmouth 134:18 false 42:17 125:10 falsehoods 124:16 familiar 44:25 86:4 families 88:21 family 93:17 167:4 famous 123:2 fancy 43:5 45:14 farm 8:11 10:14 16:8, 12,13 23:5,18 43:11, 18 50:10 144:4 farms 16:24 23:22 49:13 68:6 132:3 162:12 fashion 25:8 fast 39:19 87:3 faster 87:1 107:6 117:19 131:18 fastest 107:5 father 167:13 fathers 24:14 fault 23:14 favor 56:2 82:24 142:9 174:13 favorable 127:14 fear 94:10 116:13 124:11 178:8 fears 161:23 feasibility 62:12 67:20 68:10 147:11 feasible 110:12 feature 177:1 February 7:20 federal 8:14 20:14 28:23 111:14,15 129:12 feed 114:20 feel 6:6 59:24 93:17, 20 96:10 101:10,14 194:8	feet 15:22,23 18:3 20:4 106:10,19 114:25 120:14 176:15,17 fence 81:18 Ferguson 172:9 fetch 106:6 fiasco 94:22 fiberglass 81:15 field 16:22 59:9 139:3 Fielding 143:11 fields 120:3 fighting 43:3 151:4 184:3 185:4 figure 83:20 96:18 figured 107:17 figures 122:25 filed 7:19 8:8 58:4 files 157:1 filings 33:2 filled 118:18 filtering 51:17 filters 121:1 final 8:25 12:4 25:19 28:12 97:13 98:10 99:6 138:9 finally 21:2,4 132:25 144:22 financiers 125:6 find 27:19 49:1 72:21 79:4 116:21 118:2 finish 11:16 12:12 29:1 finished 142:15 fired 29:20 86:11,14, 20 129:25 130:9 firm 6:17 Firstenergy 97:21 104:3 firsthand 171:11 fish 32:15 67:3,25 111:22 118:8 125:11, 12,14,16 130:3,4 144:25 153:10 154:17 168:17 169:8,21 186:10 fisherman 85:20 167:13 fishermen 36:24 125:16 fishes 124:16 fishing 76:5 77:13 128:11 144:25 167:16 fits 98:14 fitting 98:18 fix 86:16 103:13 flashing 83:7 flatboat 167:6 fledgling 159:12 flickering 48:12	flight 114:24 181:16 Flint 23:9 24:8,9,13, 15,23 37:11 168:9 floor 193:10 flow 21:18 flows 22:6 fluctuations 149:9 fluid 187:15 fluids 187:11 fly 31:5 32:17 42:15, 19 153:18,22 154:5,7 flying 31:2,5,13,16 42:21 82:18 flyway 89:25 focus 59:16 foghorns 83:16 folks 181:6,8 follow 26:19 food 145:22,25 foolish 36:16 foolishly 114:9 foot 16:14 17:20 18:2 19:15,16 22:18 81:13 83:6,11 119:12 141:19 footings 19:2 footprint 192:17 for-profit 27:7 70:15 forage 31:23 foraging 56:8 forbid 32:20 Force 48:16 147:5,6 foreclosures 87:18 foregoing 195:5 foreign 37:7 80:22 forget 60:22 forgot 168:6 form 22:3 51:1 58:3 95:13 130:14 137:16, 19 138:12 143:23 162:24 formal 6:10 7:15 formed 124:20 185:24 forms 165:4 fortify 106:18 fortunate 171:3,7 Fortunately 179:12 forward 11:18 49:10 50:15 51:20 75:12 77:25 90:3 93:1,21,24 94:11,15 143:1,2 148:20 153:9 158:5 170:1 173:15,21 174:9 180:1 188:11 forward-thinking 100:23 131:12 fossil 110:2 123:16 130:12 160:2 178:7, 10,19 186:23 187:25 foul 22:5,6	fouled 17:9 29:14,16 found 104:19 146:9 172:15 179:12 foundation 66:22 67:9 68:20 69:4 70:11 72:17 74:3 122:20 128:7,15,22 129:7 139:20 147:8 183:25 Foundation's 66:25 135:9 founder 125:18 founding 39:3 48:15 fragile 77:2 frames 57:15 France 39:23 103:23,25 Francis 192:14 Franklin 85:1 frankly 112:14 114:22 Fraser 41:4 fraught 79:6 81:3 Fred 10:1 19:19 22:8 23:14 26:24 27:6,15 33:1 34:2,4 48:22 69:21 70:6,8 80:14 110:22 111:1,5,8 112:4 free 6:7 101:14 111:23 194:8 freeze 17:17,18 freighters 83:15 frequent 149:4 fresh 10:13 15:8,13, 15,17,25 16:2,8,23 17:6,8,13,17 18:19 19:17,21 20:18,20 21:5 22:25 23:3,18, 19,24 24:17 25:1 33:7 38:19 50:10 80:18 132:6 159:13 188:3 Friedlander 7:8 Friedman 122:16 160:24 173:20 friendly 30:19 friends 100:13 113:8 frightening 118:14 121:12 front 11:21 47:14 157:8 frustrating 95:14 frustration 171:13 fuel 123:16 fuels 110:2 130:12 160:2 171:22 178:7, 10,19 186:23 187:25 fulfill 24:19 56:22 61:21 98:6 fulfilling 57:24 full 29:8 69:14 85:14 97:9,12,17 99:5 138:25 139:20 180:25
--	--	---	---	---

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 **PUCO Hearing**

<p>191:7 193:1 full-time 57:7 fully 167:15 fumbling 56:15 fund 36:7 74:6 96:25 129:16 funded 18:24 19:11 24:22 funding 22:14 70:5, 13,17 73:23 74:3 186:6 funds 97:22 furiously 103:5 future 61:23 68:5 69:9 71:15 82:14 132:6 133:18 149:21 165:19 166:5 170:7 182:23 192:12</p> <hr/> <p align="center">G</p> <hr/> <p>Gabor 163:17,19,23, 24 164:1 gain 76:22 113:9 180:2 gallon 24:18 gallons 15:17 18:19 19:21 33:2 120:18,20, 25 187:10,15 galore 184:11 gamble 77:17 game 14:19 Gantverg 195:3,14 garage 46:18 194:5 Garry 51:22 52:2,6, 12 gas 34:3 37:7 70:9 81:17 86:9 114:8 123:8 165:20 178:11 179:16 186:21 187:19 188:2 gather 125:20 gathered 68:9 93:23 gathering 190:1 Gay 6:19 gem 16:6 general 6:5 42:18 71:1 94:18 116:11 142:18 171:1 generally 55:18 generate 10:11 57:5 178:20 generated 188:6 191:19 generating 10:5 56:23 67:20 129:20 generation 5:13 7:23 48:11 51:2 57:1, 6 165:2 generations 170:7 generators 10:3 genius 83:19 127:12</p>	<p>gentleman 173:19 genuine 124:3 GEO 148:13,16 149:25 George 51:22 52:2, 6,12 163:13 Germany 39:17,19 giant 42:3 give 15:3 29:23 65:16 89:8 92:7 93:11 95:7 97:3 99:14 102:4 109:15 111:4 140:20 141:4 142:16 143:9 150:10 172:20 174:21 giving 14:14 75:4 glass 79:16 191:7 globally 32:12 53:14 55:24 56:6 globe 87:11 goal 60:12,14 61:13, 14,19,21 62:1,4,7,8,9, 11,13 goals 60:8,11 63:25 65:19 178:13 186:1 Gobi 103:3 God 41:13 Gofundme 24:12 Golden 61:2 good 7:6 50:12 55:22 59:2 84:17 94:5 102:20 103:9 108:3 113:15 155:2 165:5,6 184:20,21 185:4 Goodrich 177:17 Google 40:24 government 20:14, 15 24:22 28:23 36:8 40:17 41:17 71:4 112:12 148:18 governments 36:15 Grabner 139:6,7 graceful 126:8 gram 64:4,6,10,14 grams 64:13 grandchildren 167:23 grandfather 167:12 grant 5:21 93:1 177:17 granted 26:23 27:4, 9 75:8 168:5 grassroots 124:9 164:4 gray 179:4 great 15:16 23:16 29:15 31:21 37:3 38:12 39:4 41:23 44:24 46:4,6 48:15 53:24 67:16 68:6,12 76:14 77:21,22 78:25 80:16 100:20 111:13, 16 112:11 122:15,16</p>	<p>123:6,12 124:23 125:22 126:4,6 129:20 133:19 141:6 148:21 149:24 152:22 167:12 180:3 186:5 greater 33:23 65:13 greatest 30:2 127:14 grebes 31:24 green 14:21 16:10, 25 23:23 26:17 39:20 125:5 146:3 148:7,10 greenhouse 123:8 165:20 Greenpeace 125:1 Greg 188:13 Gregory 7:10 grew 131:17,18 173:5 grid 83:21 98:15,18 104:16 grid-connected 162:9 171:6 Griffin 52:8 grossly 133:2 grotesque 82:16 ground 76:10 grounds 31:23 52:23 141:23 group 66:22 151:1,3, 25 164:5 groups 39:2,24 124:21,25 129:15 142:8 148:17 grow 49:11 131:13 growing 16:2 51:2 53:3 107:5,6 122:14, 24 growth 49:20 131:15 191:17 grudges 39:11 guarantee 113:3 guess 107:15</p> <hr/> <p align="center">H</p> <hr/> <p>habitat 32:5 45:16, 20 56:8 82:7,22 145:1 149:6 habitats 17:13 61:16 82:1,21 182:9 half 41:8,9,11 44:4 47:12 164:5 191:7,8 halfway 18:15 Hall 51:16 hallway 6:1 102:16 115:10 halted 58:8 halting 75:5 hand 91:25 195:10 handle 122:19 handout 145:9 hands 84:13</p>	<p>happen 21:9 24:23, 25 37:12 113:3 191:10 happened 113:14, 16 happening 35:4 124:4 happy 19:20 38:9 71:13 115:19 194:10 Haque 14:7 Harbor 58:24 hard 48:8 87:16 139:3 179:23 hardworking 113:24 harm 147:21 harmed 23:13 harmful 130:6,14 harming 21:5 Harper 148:9 hate 154:11 hazard 118:19 hazardous 21:2 hazards 118:19,25 124:15 175:11 head 68:25 81:10 82:11 119:6 183:23, 24 health 14:12 33:17 76:4,20 77:9 130:19 131:8 149:23 165:6 166:4,7 healthier 165:3 healthy 67:1 75:21 hear 71:13 102:13 107:25 181:11 heard 37:10 42:12 100:10 112:1 114:10 119:1 164:21 hearing 5:7,19 6:8 7:19,24 8:1,4 10:16 11:2,5,6 12:16,18,25 43:9 52:17 75:9 95:18 142:6 144:15 148:5 194:13 195:5 hearings 9:3 49:5 51:7 75:5 heart 84:7 heat 155:16 heavily 64:20 heavy 122:21 130:1 186:24 heck 108:5 height 32:17 Heights 102:8 122:10 134:19 142:7 180:21 held 29:21 51:7 111:18,19 119:11,16 heliport 142:18 helped 71:25 128:22</p>	<p>helpful 11:12 hereunto 195:9 Hersch 78:6,8,12,15 hesitation 180:13 heyday 86:21 hiding 124:7 high 7:11 41:5 47:24 48:7 79:12 92:17 104:12 178:22 higher 113:17 114:2 140:1,2 highest 79:18 highly 64:24 95:16, 18 Hill 150:12 Hilltop 78:13 hire 45:14 152:10 hired 43:5 history 56:15 87:25 90:18 125:25 136:24 167:4,11 hit 46:15 87:16 90:25 hold 77:25 86:19 holds 160:23 188:4 hollow 62:24 Holody 175:17,19,23 176:1 home 88:10 100:5 192:10 honest 91:12 honestly 94:19 honor 6:13,25 7:7 14:2,3 23:16 28:21 29:5 47:7,25 48:7 66:20 71:11 139:17 140:9 193:13 Honorable 128:4 Honors 38:10 155:18 hope 35:18 108:20 174:12 190:19 hoping 80:22 Hopkins 114:23 hopper 87:1 horizon 83:4 144:19 horned 31:23 hospital 84:8 142:18,22 hospitality 127:2 hot 79:13 hotbed 191:19 hotel 126:24 hour 41:8,10 82:12 96:19 173:8 hours 10:10,12 39:8 44:4 79:23 101:7 house 14:15 88:14 179:19 houses 186:14 howling 103:5 hub 81:9 173:23</p>
---	--	---	---	--

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 PUCO Hearing

<p>huge 81:17 83:14 94:4,12,23 Huggins 159:3 hulking 17:10 human 130:6 hundred 21:17 104:20 106:7,8 191:18 hundreds 56:10 103:3 181:6 Hunger 110:22 111:1,5,8 hurdle 186:20 Huron 33:4 Hurricane 181:19 hurting 191:14 Hutchinson 163:13 Hydro 35:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <hr/> <p>ice 74:1 106:5,10 140:10 171:25 172:6 icebreaker 5:10 6:14 9:24 10:8,17 27:6,17 53:8 54:1,18, 21 56:4,14,22 57:3 58:4 60:23 62:23 63:13 67:11,19 69:8, 20 71:12 74:23 75:23 78:22,23 80:7,9,20 81:6 84:10,16 85:16 88:4,24 89:24 92:13, 20 93:2 100:2 112:3 116:7 120:18 123:3, 20 125:23 126:2,7,25 127:5 129:1,18 131:8 132:5 133:5,16 135:1 137:11 139:21 140:4 142:5 143:1,18 144:3, 17 145:3 148:12 149:23 150:1 151:11, 23 153:1,5 154:10,22 156:20 159:22 160:20 161:17,20 162:1,20 164:13,24 166:12 173:24 174:13 176:5, 6 177:4,11,14 188:10 icebreaker's 79:25 83:2 icebreaker/leedco 79:5 idea 34:5 142:17 identified 53:13 122:18 identify 61:9 63:14 ill-advised 171:18 ill-conceived 91:11 illegal 45:21 images 133:1 imagine 34:19 84:12 imagined 110:14</p>	<p>immense 59:20 immigrants 191:22 impact 45:4 53:7 56:25 57:2 58:8 73:10 76:19 105:22 144:25 145:6,15,20 152:22 156:8 162:23 169:7 186:7 impactful 113:19 impacting 131:4 impacts 53:22 60:5 62:7 67:5 72:24 115:3 130:3 144:9,23 156:21 160:7,14 186:14 191:5 impede 168:19 implement 62:5 implementation 59:10 101:2 implemented 57:18 implications 181:21 182:16 important 30:2 32:12 40:19 44:23 53:14 55:24 56:7 75:4 152:8 156:1 167:15, 16,17,22 168:18 173:13 impressed 183:17 impressive 59:19 improper 71:6 improve 166:3 192:11,15 193:3 improving 131:7 inaccurate 116:17 121:11 inaction 191:11,16 inaudible 25:3 38:20,25 41:10 43:1 100:11 103:21 106:15 155:5 165:11 171:8 190:20 192:4 inception 79:3 inch 119:15 inclined 117:8 include 92:20 98:18 184:21 included 42:24 45:21 63:13 71:5 83:3 155:14 includes 9:7 31:7 including 5:21 8:12 11:4 14:6 31:6 36:2 40:23 54:12 82:2 129:13,15 132:15,19 inclusion 97:12 incorporated 5:11 151:16 177:2 incorrect 116:13 increase 34:20 123:9 125:14</p>	<p>increases 34:6 37:9 130:18 increasingly 149:4 incredibly 104:12 105:7 independent 143:24 168:12 independently 168:16 169:3,4 Indiana/kentucky 151:12 indicating 119:12 individual 138:10 167:18 individuals 5:22 22:7 148:19 159:18 industrial 16:11,18, 20,23 17:6,14 18:5,25 19:15 22:18,21 23:5, 18,21 40:11,18 104:24 107:4,13 108:2 125:25 149:1 160:4 176:8,20 191:20 industrialization 16:12 20:10 industries 127:2 144:7 industry 16:4 41:21 49:20 50:6 94:21,23 102:25 105:4 107:7 108:5 112:23 113:17 122:23 123:16 127:1, 9 128:24 131:10 161:14 163:2 176:10 179:16 182:18 186:5 ineffective 57:21 inefficient 17:11 ineptness 56:16 inexpensive 107:10 inference 64:20 inferred 58:3 influence 71:6 inform 57:1 59:13 61:22 79:1 information 13:3 15:1 38:18 65:9 68:8 70:21 76:2 78:21 96:4,7,8,18 99:5 194:9 informational 81:1 informative 99:23 informed 81:13 infrared 61:11 infrasound 33:15 infrastructure 88:3 98:5 161:11 infringe 161:24 inhaled 130:16 inherent 171:15 initial 126:8 169:17</p>	<p>inland 106:16 127:15 innovate 192:3 innovation 126:2 190:13 191:16,19 192:1 innovative 49:10 50:14 131:12 input 24:24 90:8 insertion 126:8 insisting 184:17 inspiration 36:23 installation 80:7 98:3 127:4 159:13 160:14,19 161:12 installations 123:6 installed 86:24 162:7 176:14 installing 76:13 instantaneously 83:22 Institute 41:4 insufficient 93:22 intake 18:17 23:6 116:17 133:8 intended 10:19 intensely 40:18 intent 27:15 40:15 64:16 intentions 60:25 Inter-lake 175:2 interact 142:1 171:25 interconnected 168:21 interest 30:20 40:20 70:23 71:6 72:13,14, 18 98:14,16 149:19 152:6,25 153:4 interested 75:21 interests 70:2 152:14 176:7 184:5, 25 185:1 interfere 76:15 interference 111:24 internal 75:6 international 32:14 53:15 86:2 132:20 internationally 50:13 interrupt 24:2 36:20 interstate 179:9 187:19 Intervene 80:1 83:3 intervened 10:25 intervenor 7:9 150:21 151:6,8,14,18, 25 intervenor's 150:23 152:13 intervention 152:3</p>	<p>introduce 31:17 76:25 introduction 11:17 intrusion 161:21 inventive 127:12 investigated 58:9 investigation 8:9 71:2,8,18 97:5 investing 77:3 investments 131:22 165:9 invite 128:14 137:8 involved 57:19 69:19 105:3 147:4 155:11 Ireland 39:23 Ironworkers 132:20 irreplaceable 167:21 irrevocably 77:15 Island 36:3 167:8 issue 14:22,24 25:19 30:2 35:7 45:5 49:6 75:4,6,25 78:18 112:7,9,12 114:15,23 115:2,4 121:18 issued 187:2 issues 18:10 25:18 47:24 48:12 51:17,19 58:4 62:3,21 134:24 135:21 148:20 153:8 154:18 169:2,4 items 88:4 96:1 150:19 IV 97:6 Ivy 195:3,14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <hr/> <p>Jack 81:19 jail 29:22 Jamie 172:11 183:4 Jane 148:8 January 8:19 96:20 187:16 Jason 126:13,15,19, 21,22 Jeff 31:18 Jennifer 158:12,16, 18,22 159:1 jeopardized 76:21 77:10 jewel 75:18 77:18 Jill 5:23 Jim 93:6,8,12,15 140:14 Joanne 140:15,17, 21 141:1 job 20:16 72:22 113:11 131:20 137:7 138:16,17 147:25 181:16 191:17</p>
--	---	--	---	--

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018

PUCO Hearing

<p>job-creating 92:15 123:9</p> <p>jobs 34:14,23 35:11 41:20,22,23,25 50:9 53:3 73:1,13,16,17, 18,20 87:20,22 88:19 112:20 113:5,10,13, 18,20 129:20 131:11 137:16,21 140:5,7 165:10 167:15 181:18 186:2 191:21</p> <p>John 66:6,11,15,19, 21 115:21,23 116:2,5 139:6</p> <p>joining 162:16</p> <p>Jon 6:18 183:5,7,11, 14</p> <p>Jonathan 170:10, 12,16,18 175:17,19, 23 176:1</p> <p>Jones 159:3 161:8</p> <p>journeymen 137:17</p> <p>joust 84:16</p> <p>Jr 13:15,17,23 14:1</p> <p>Juan 181:19</p> <p>Judge 128:4</p> <p>judges 5:17 14:3 128:5</p> <p>jugs 24:18</p> <p>July 8:9 55:20 58:5 68:15 79:21 92:23 97:6</p> <p>jump 161:16</p> <p>jumpstart 128:23</p> <p>June 95:20 97:5</p> <p>junk 81:21</p> <p>justify 69:9,13 93:23</p> <hr/> <p>K</p> <hr/> <p>Karen 150:3,4</p> <p>Karpinski 69:1</p> <p>kayaker 128:10</p> <p>keeping 105:10</p> <p>Kelleys 167:8</p> <p>Ken 5:24</p> <p>Kerns 89:2</p> <p>key 25:18,19 46:15 108:17 122:22 158:23</p> <p>kids 137:25 188:18 192:9</p> <p>kill 45:22 117:2,23 118:8 152:23</p> <p>killed 117:14</p> <p>killing 31:1 80:23 117:9</p> <p>kills 145:6 184:12</p> <p>kilowatt 41:8,10</p> <p>kind 9:6 42:23 105:15 154:9 180:3 190:14</p> <p>kinds 169:13</p>	<p>Kingdom 156:16</p> <p>Kingsway 66:16</p> <p>Kirtland 31:8 89:16</p> <p>Kirtland's 56:11</p> <p>kiteboards 37:2</p> <p>knocked 41:12</p> <p>knocking 164:16</p> <p>knowledge 39:7 62:1 96:5,17 127:11 141:21 180:2</p> <p>Kocher 5:23</p> <p>Krotseng 174:16,18, 23,24 175:1</p> <p>Kurt 158:11</p> <p>kw 141:13</p> <hr/> <p>L</p> <hr/> <p>L-A-U 134:18</p> <p>lab 156:9,10</p> <p>labor 50:7 127:12 132:19 139:23</p> <p>laced 187:1</p> <p>lack 95:15 171:13</p> <p>lady 108:18</p> <p>lagging 131:21</p> <p>lags 131:1 162:3</p> <p>lake 6:16 9:25 13:23 15:16,20 16:5,8,12, 13,21,24 17:17 18:2, 4,9,18 19:1,4,6,14,17, 22,25 20:4,8,9,16,17, 19,20 21:3,5,14 22:2, 23,24 23:4,17 26:22, 24 27:5,12 29:14 30:3 31:5,21 32:1,4,8,11 33:11,12,19 34:7,8,9 35:21 36:22 37:1,5 42:15,23 44:24,25 45:1,3,13 47:15 50:23 53:12,13 56:3 57:1 66:22,24,25 67:1,6,9, 21,23 68:6,11,19 69:3,4,11,23 70:11 72:16,24,25 73:12 74:2,7 75:1,17,22 76:4,9,14,20,24 77:2, 4,6,9,12,16,18,22 78:17,19 79:14,20 80:11 81:11,19,25 82:5,19 83:4,13 84:1, 11 85:20 86:5,8 87:6 89:24 90:4,14,21 91:2,9,23 92:19 95:10 100:7,8,19 104:16 106:7,18 111:13 118:12,13,20 119:3, 19,20 123:2,18,19 128:9,13,20 129:4,8, 22 130:2 147:23 149:15 153:11,12,14, 23,24 154:5,19 160:16 162:1 163:24</p>	<p>164:11 165:25 166:13 167:5,11,14 168:2,18 170:24 173:7 175:4, 11 179:19 180:3 181:7 184:8 185:8,25 188:4 189:13,15 190:2,18</p> <p>lake's 32:6</p> <p>lakefront 36:4 109:2 114:18,22 118:23 190:15</p> <p>lakes 15:16 31:22 38:13 39:4 44:24 46:4,6 48:15 53:24 68:7,12 76:15 80:16 94:7 111:14,17 112:11 122:15 123:6, 12 124:23 126:6 129:20 130:4 133:19 148:21 149:24 186:5</p> <p>lakeshore 190:17</p> <p>Lakeview 146:24</p> <p>Lakewood 18:14 47:18 93:14 100:5 104:14 167:9 172:23 173:4,6 174:25 189:7, 9,14,16 190:8</p> <p>Lamb 166:16,18,22 167:1,3</p> <p>land 40:13,18,21 41:9 50:25 80:23 138:2 143:20 154:6,8 178:18 179:17</p> <p>landmark 86:11</p> <p>Lane 139:15</p> <p>Lange 37:21 38:1,5, 6,8 44:3,6,10,13,16, 18</p> <p>large 17:5 37:6 39:25 57:2 64:4 70:7 73:7, 15 120:24 125:3 136:25</p> <p>larger 57:13 119:6</p> <p>larger-scale 68:5</p> <p>largest 20:19 23:19 41:2 48:2 136:24</p> <p>lastly 63:22 114:10</p> <p>late 20:10 22:3 151:2 174:4</p> <p>Lau 134:2,7,8,10,13, 17,20</p> <p>laughable 82:24</p> <p>launch 110:15 188:2</p> <p>launched 71:2</p> <p>law 5:17 6:17 71:9 72:2 107:1 111:15</p> <p>lawful 13:17 30:8 38:1 47:2 52:2 55:4 58:17 66:11 74:13 78:8 84:21 89:5 92:5 93:8 95:4 99:11 102:1 109:12 111:1 115:23</p>	<p>122:4 126:15 127:21 134:13 136:7 139:10 140:17 143:6 146:20 150:7 157:14 158:18 163:19 166:18 170:12 172:17 174:18 175:19 177:22 180:16 183:7 185:15 189:1</p> <p>laws 187:4,18</p> <p>lawyer's 22:15</p> <p>layer 61:3 168:22</p> <p>layers 168:22 192:8</p> <p>Lazard 143:24</p> <p>lead 20:25 21:24 162:2,16</p> <p>leader 47:23 59:7 129:19 132:7 188:8</p> <p>leaders 160:22 174:3 176:24</p> <p>leadership 134:23 135:23</p> <p>leading 48:7</p> <p>League 48:1</p> <p>leak 120:20</p> <p>leaking 33:12</p> <p>leaks 33:4,8</p> <p>learn 35:19 82:9 142:2 180:6</p> <p>learned 15:4 39:12</p> <p>lease 26:23 34:9 96:2,8,11 112:15 186:6</p> <p>leasing 37:6</p> <p>leave 12:14 40:4 134:5</p> <p>led 51:5 68:21 72:2 129:4</p> <p>LEEDCO 18:1 19:19 22:8 23:14 26:23,25 27:2,4,14,16 33:1,9 34:1,23 37:14 42:12 48:24 67:14 69:20 70:3,13,20 72:20 73:18 80:15,25 91:12 95:21 104:4 112:3,5, 19 116:7 117:9 147:5, 17 148:11 154:9 159:11 160:7 161:22 168:13 169:3 181:1,2, 10 182:1 183:17 184:11 185:23 193:19</p> <p>LEEDCo's 72:11,22 82:8 93:2 194:7</p> <p>left 44:4 150:19 179:18 188:18 192:9</p> <p>legal 15:5 159:6</p> <p>legislature 31:20 179:15</p> <p>length 71:14 119:11, 16 155:24</p> <p>lengths 78:25</p>	<p>lengthy 186:19</p> <p>lens 75:22 149:18 161:16</p> <p>Leon 7:9</p> <p>Leppla 6:25 7:1</p> <p>letter 27:15 67:24 117:1,5 120:19 148:8 154:3</p> <p>letting 91:24</p> <p>level 138:22 169:12</p> <p>liability 29:17</p> <p>liable 22:11</p> <p>liberal 40:16</p> <p>liberally 152:4</p> <p>liberty 111:22</p> <p>lie 81:22 144:14</p> <p>lies 79:6</p> <p>life 16:5 35:25 45:20 57:10 78:16 81:12 149:11</p> <p>lifeblood 148:25</p> <p>lifelong 116:8 128:9 178:23</p> <p>lifespan 184:20</p> <p>lifestyle 179:23</p> <p>lifetime 62:20 137:12</p> <p>light 83:23</p> <p>lighting 120:2,11</p> <p>lightning 120:14</p> <p>lights 58:13 83:8 90:8 91:17</p> <p>likes 34:5 48:13</p> <p>limit 43:20 44:12 57:23 64:11</p> <p>limited 8:13 175:8</p> <p>Lincoln 118:1 176:14</p> <p>Linda 185:13,15,20, 22</p> <p>lines 189:24</p> <p>lining 94:6,13</p> <p>link 91:7</p> <p>linked 21:7</p> <p>Lipaj 66:6,7,8,9,11, 15,18,19,21 71:22 72:8,10</p> <p>list 30:5 58:3 124:13 188:15</p> <p>listen 135:8 163:8</p> <p>listening 51:16</p> <p>literally 41:2 138:10</p> <p>live 16:3 47:12 58:23 78:12 80:6 89:10 93:13 102:7 110:8 143:11 163:24 170:19 179:8,22 180:21 187:24</p> <p>lived 40:6,7 78:16 135:18 173:5</p> <p>lives 80:4</p>
--	--	--	--	---

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 **PUCO Hearing**

<p>living 171:9 Liz 89:3,5,9,13 local 5:19 7:8 20:15 36:8 48:5 86:3 87:19 125:21 129:12 132:15,19 137:13 181:12 182:4 186:1 191:15 locally 47:23 50:13 131:6 located 15:16 50:1 133:9 142:16 144:20 location 17:25 18:5, 10 21:14 31:14 73:8 87:25 88:6 116:20 127:14 133:4 locations 31:6 32:2 35:3 133:13 lock 80:15 locked 157:8 Lockhart 188:13,16 Locust 185:20 Log 140:22 logo 177:3 LOI 27:14 long 40:8 44:3 51:13 56:15 83:15 88:13,15 99:25 155:20 167:4, 11,25 184:10 long-established 124:25 long-term 73:24 74:4 76:7,19 171:20 long-time 166:9 longer 57:15 141:8 Longshore 161:3 looked 104:17 157:1 looming 84:9 loons 31:23 Lorain 129:8 181:7 Lori 7:7 Lorry 27:13 68:25 95:20 96:21 Los 52:8 lose 34:25 losers 94:14 loss 82:7 losses 73:10,15,16 lost 41:25 137:21 174:2 181:17 lot 83:13 102:16,23 104:13 107:25 108:6 109:2 110:16 113:11 114:12 119:1 128:11 154:14 156:17 185:3 190:16 191:8 lots 191:19 Louder 102:14 love 68:20 127:19, 21,25 128:1,3 134:3, 10 138:20,21 167:11 173:7</p>	<p>lower 118:3 lubricant 120:21,25 lubricants 120:19 lucky 100:18 lunch 173:8 Lung 130:18,24 lungs 130:17 lux 120:6,7,10</p> <hr/> <p align="center">M</p> <hr/> <p>Madam 85:12 made 42:7 49:21 57:8 70:12 95:16 101:12 112:23,24 125:23 163:6 183:20, 22 Madison 50:1 79:10 Magazine 19:24 magnesium 20:25 21:25 magnetic 116:23 magnificent 100:14 148:23 magnitude 78:20 main 26:14 107:15 145:3 Maine 171:3 maintain 67:1 maintaining 83:21 maintenance 73:25 74:4 127:4 160:19 major 17:2 89:25 176:7 179:9 majority 41:17 123:13 162:4 make 6:23 7:15 11:23 12:4,19 24:4 42:6 59:15 72:6 77:17 78:1 80:17,22 85:6 98:7 99:5,24 101:13 105:21 106:16 121:19 126:4 132:7 135:12, 13 146:3 147:21 159:11 173:22 182:10 184:4 185:6,19 makes 20:17 makeup 121:2 making 113:1 119:20 124:7 159:2 164:17 182:2 Maloney 7:9 man-hours 161:6 management 62:6 127:13 manages 141:12 Mance 183:4 mandate 41:16 mandated 34:6 37:9 Mann 123:2 manpower 161:15 manual 8:17</p>	<p>manufacture 174:4 manufacturer 112:21 manufacturer's 8:16 manufacturers 35:2 49:19,22 117:20 132:15 manufacturing 16:4 35:10 41:25 42:3 49:17 50:2,4 81:9 87:22 107:6 123:9 126:1 132:8 160:4 173:12 map 45:19 50:11 190:3 maps 184:10 March 7:21 8:18 31:18 67:24 117:1 marginal 106:15 Maria 181:19 marina 75:16 marine 132:8,16 172:3 Maritime 171:3 mark 58:14,17,22 59:1 101:14 market 34:13 35:13 75:15 108:7 114:3 Markings 120:1 Martha's 107:23 Marty 163:12 Maryland 151:17 massive 17:22 21:12 33:11 122:19 182:16 materials 161:15 math 86:22 Matt 5:21 46:25 47:2, 6,10 matter 5:9 7:18 112:14 141:4 mature 112:22 maximize 9:18 Mcabee 177:18 Mcphee 177:19,20, 22 178:1,3 Mcquaid 89:3,5,9, 10,13 Mcvey 183:3 Meadowbrook 122:10 Meander 137:7 means 107:2 165:16 181:3 measured 56:10 measures 92:21 145:6 measuring 176:15, 17 media 87:9</p>	<p>medical 107:7 114:19 medicines 168:15 Medina 85:1 meet 45:25 49:1 61:12 63:20,24 153:5 meeting 49:4 99:22 194:20 meetings 49:5 67:14 81:1 90:6 91:13 153:20 154:1 meets 60:25 Megan 5:15 megawatt 10:11 96:19 176:15,16 megawatts 10:4,6 67:20 162:8 melted 81:16 105:17 member 39:4 47:11 55:14 86:1 87:18 89:15 167:19 members 5:20 8:2 18:12 30:22 47:8 48:15 66:21,23 70:24 72:12,20 75:13,19,25 85:13 124:14 136:15 138:23 164:5,18,25 166:9 membership 77:6 148:16 164:3 175:3 Memorandum 78:23 80:1 men 127:10 mention 154:17 mentioned 45:6 65:19 105:14 112:20 118:7 132:2 154:17 159:18 173:18 mentioning 21:23 mercury 21:1,25 130:1,2 Merganser 53:10 messages 124:7 met 65:14 152:19 metals 130:1 186:24 meter 105:21 meters 92:16 method 19:19 methodically 49:3 methodology 61:6 63:12 methods 61:10 63:18 metro 139:24 Metropark 108:14, 15 metropolitan 49:18 Michael 123:2 172:12 Michigan 23:9 24:8, 9,14,15,23 33:5 168:9</p>	<p>micro 120:6,7,9 microphone 11:20 microscopic 130:10 mid 20:10 22:3 middle 83:13,14 Middleburg 142:7 Midwest 149:1 159:10 migrate 53:11 migrating 64:5 migration 60:21 64:19,24 65:8,17 90:11 149:8 153:14 migratory 32:2 82:2 89:25 Mike 163:14 mile 15:20 116:16,24 142:17,19 170:19 179:7 miles 15:21 18:14,22 20:2 32:22 49:25 78:17 82:12 92:17 106:3,6,7,8 116:19, 22,25 119:14 120:5 133:4,9 144:11 156:5 160:15 161:25 military 138:1 million 16:16,18 18:18,21,23,24 32:17 67:8 73:11 80:11 104:21 141:15 187:10 189:18 millions 15:18 18:20 21:21 23:11 42:22 53:11 56:10 81:20,23 82:15 Millwright 137:12 mind 19:10 46:22 188:21 mine 94:16 113:8 mineral 127:16 Minerva 166:23 minimal 31:15 144:12 145:15 162:22 minimize 53:22 62:6 minimized 156:6 minimum 64:14 minium 60:19 minute 38:22 42:9 minutes 101:16 173:9 194:4 Miranda 7:1 mirrored 38:13 mirrors 79:7 miserably 60:24 misinformation 79:6 81:3 100:25 153:25 misinterpretation 56:16</p>
--	---	--	---	--

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 **PUCO Hearing**

<p>misleading 116:13 misled 121:20 mispronunciations 13:13 misrepresent 133:2 mission 66:25 97:25 98:2,7 mistake 147:23 mistakes 42:6 mitigation 62:5 82:23 mixed 21:10 model 169:17 models 169:19 modern 179:22 mom's 138:20 moment 25:5,6 44:6 138:19 193:14 money 16:17 26:17, 19 34:11 36:14 98:20, 25 99:3 114:9 141:17 monikers 41:21 monitoring 8:21 53:20 54:11 60:5 62:12 monopole 117:21 monstrous 17:11 21:11 month 113:24,25 117:3,7,10 145:17 months 82:22 116:9 121:3 150:24 164:15 Moore 101:23 102:1, 6,9,14,17 moratorium 35:15, 17 40:14 41:18 46:6 morning 44:5 90:13 91:1 108:20,22 mortality 53:20 54:11 62:2 91:21 142:14 145:4 Moss 99:17 Mother 50:21 mothers 24:14 motivation 123:24 MOU 54:1,4 59:22,24 60:4 mouth 47:16 move 25:13 29:2 35:2 44:11 46:8 69:15 93:1 122:1 188:1,7,10 moved 104:15 179:2 movement 39:21 45:12 162:17 moving 41:18 50:15 72:4 75:12 148:19 155:21 159:17 multi-national 70:7 multi-year 65:21 multiple 60:22 65:20 87:5 144:13 186:7</p>	<p>multiplied 33:22 municipal 43:4 71:24 Museum 90:17</p> <hr/> <p align="center">N</p> <hr/> <p>Nader 109:10,12,17, 19,20 named 110:6 nameplate 10:3 names 24:3 Nantucket 107:23 narrow 149:18 NASA 110:16 nation 77:14 87:25 88:7 national 14:10 29:15 32:13 48:1 52:14 122:25 124:23 125:20 140:1 145:13 156:9 nationally 47:22 nations 162:5 natural 19:22 30:3 37:3 40:20 53:18 54:2,17 90:18 96:3 114:7 166:2 186:9 nature 50:21 57:11 90:15 152:21 189:22 naval 170:20 navigability 76:6 77:15 navigation 86:12 111:21 175:11 Navy 85:9 nearest 116:21 necessarily 8:24 161:18 necessitating 83:16 necessity 149:16 153:5 needed 81:6 132:10 needing 182:15 negative 33:17,24 76:3 113:19 193:4 negatively 130:3 neighbor 189:11 neighborhood 164:9 179:2 neighbors 189:12, 13 190:16 193:2 nesting 82:3 network 151:16,22 newly 124:20 Newport 107:22 news 33:6 87:9 94:5 118:9 newsletter 145:18 nicely 21:3 nicer 179:2 Nick 5:16</p>	<p>night 83:9,14,15 120:13 134:24 153:17,18 154:7 nights 64:21 NIMBY 121:17,18 Ninety 153:17 ninth 131:3 nocturnal 64:5 noise 102:16 non-turbines 43:1 nonprofit 26:23 27:4 70:4,19,23 148:17 185:23 normality 60:18 Norman 174:24 175:16 Norris 5:24 north 10:14 39:1,2 48:18 52:8 58:23 73:2,10,14 86:5 107:21 124:21 126:24 143:11 144:24 188:4 Northeast 49:23 94:18 100:24 112:13 113:23 131:11 133:18 147:18 160:5 161:13 164:6 165:22 166:6, 23 170:21 177:8 184:2 Northeastern 102:19 northern 97:23 98:9 133:12 147:24 Norway 19:10,12,20 22:9 70:8 80:14 Norwegian 19:13 26:25 27:11 70:9 154:23 Notary 195:3,15 note 7:25 10:24 115:9 noted 44:9 notes 195:8 noting 132:25 November 8:2 12:25 52:17 141:7 186:18 195:15 nubs 83:5 nuclear 39:18 97:24 103:24 105:2,4,5,10 114:8 123:21 number 5:8 25:17 35:7 40:1 62:4 67:11 68:24 70:3,22 95:10 122:25 136:4 150:19 152:20,24 153:3,6 154:4 155:12 156:14 163:24 173:22 188:18 numbers 38:11 106:17 numerous 87:8</p>	<p align="center">O</p> <hr/> <p>O'CONNOR 92:3,5, 9,12 O'DONNELL 6:18 71:11 155:18 193:13, 15,17,18 Oak 58:24 oath 11:23 13:18 30:9 38:2 47:3 52:3 55:5 58:18 66:12 74:14 78:9 84:22 89:6 92:6 93:9 95:5 99:12 102:2 109:13 111:2 115:24 122:5 126:16 127:22 134:14 136:8 139:11 140:18 143:7 146:21 150:8 157:15 158:19 163:20 166:19 170:13 172:18 174:19 175:20 177:23 180:17 183:8 185:16 189:2 object 43:8 objecting 121:11,15 objection 44:9,19 71:13,20 155:24 objective 59:12 Observatory 31:10 55:13,17 59:4 89:17, 18,22 93:19 155:5 Observatory's 59:11 observe 12:14 117:25 observed 119:2,8 observer 42:18 obsolete 74:2 117:15,24 obstruction 111:23 120:1 obtainable 62:14 obtaining 8:13 occasion 121:1 occasionally 158:3 ocean 146:7 oceans 17:4 Ocepek 126:13,15, 19,21,22 October 90:22 ODNR 26:22 27:4,9 54:13 59:23 63:25 96:4 ODOT's 136:24 Oestreicher 163:10, 11 offensive 175:12 offer 148:7 offered 11:14 61:5 84:12 office 108:17 195:10 Officer 128:6,7</p>	<p>offices 8:6 official 12:2 75:5 officials 37:6 48:6 71:4 72:13 offshore 10:14 17:2 18:14 23:21,24 35:17 38:19,25 40:13 41:10 43:10 49:13 56:20,25 62:13 68:5 73:6 76:8 92:17 122:14,23 123:1,5,11 125:21 128:24 131:23 132:3, 8 133:4,9 144:4,23 151:16,23 156:13,15, 22 159:14,24 160:15, 23 161:14 162:7,11, 25 166:12 171:2,6 172:1 185:25 188:3 Ohio 5:6,14,18,20 6:6,20 7:1,3,12,23 8:7 9:20 10:21 13:23 14:7,8,9,12,13,15 18:15 20:15 21:21 22:13 26:21 27:13 30:13,17 47:13 49:23 53:17,19 54:2,12,16, 22 55:10,19 58:24 59:4,8 60:1 63:25 66:16 68:1,13 69:5, 12,17 70:2 73:17,21 74:18,22 75:14,15,18, 24 76:9 77:3,19 79:10 80:19,24 85:2,13 88:17 89:11 92:11,25 93:14 94:18 95:10 96:3 97:23,25 98:9,23 99:18 100:24 102:19 109:18 110:2 111:6, 18 112:13 113:5,23 115:1 116:4 121:12 123:15 126:20 128:2 129:17 130:22 131:11 132:7,13 133:18 134:19 135:5 136:19 138:23 139:15 140:3, 23 143:12 147:18,25 148:7,11,16,19 151:5, 6,10,13,19 152:2 156:24 157:20 158:24 160:5 161:13 163:25 164:2,6,15,18,20 165:8,22 166:1,8,23 170:17,21 172:23 174:25 175:24 177:8 180:4 184:2 186:9 187:22 188:1,10 189:7 190:9 192:2 195:4,10,15 Ohio's 16:6 20:9 73:12 77:22 98:5 Ohioans 18:11,20 23:11 46:2 166:6</p>
---	--	--	--	--

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 **PUCO Hearing**

<p>oil 15:25 33:3,4,7,11 34:3 37:7 70:9 120:25 121:2,3 178:11 179:16 186:21 188:2 older 123:15 oldest 48:1 Oliveros 99:9,11,16, 17,20 Olmsted 126:24 143:12 185:21 Olsen 10:1 19:19 22:8 23:14 26:25 27:6,16 33:1 34:2,4 48:22,24 69:21 70:6,8 80:14 112:4 omissions 79:7 on-site 54:9 Ondrey 140:11,12 ongoing 193:23 online 26:3,5 28:4 182:6 Ontario 34:22 35:4, 10,22 38:25 40:6,7 41:7,24 42:7 45:1,3, 21 113:16 123:19 153:12 open 34:13 35:13 63:15 76:12,15 84:7 108:7 114:3 186:14 193:10 openness 135:6 operate 10:9 80:21 171:9 operating 64:19,21 86:13 operation 54:11 60:6 106:4 160:19 operational 53:21 161:12 operations 63:16 opinion 85:10 88:23 90:5 95:14 98:22 opinions 141:5 opponents 43:21 191:9 opportunities 127:1 137:20,22 138:3 191:21 opportunity 10:20 11:3,15 12:20 13:8 24:5 28:7 66:1 72:5 88:22 100:21,22 137:11,14,23 141:3,4 147:13 158:5,8 159:20 162:2 165:23 166:1 174:3 188:1 191:12 193:5 oppose 162:20 opposite 100:12 opposition 89:23 115:13 116:10 119:4 120:11,17 121:10,15</p>	<p>123:11,20,25 183:19 OPSB 14:6 18:11 38:10,18 optimistic 192:23 option 54:12 options 96:11 order 9:19 11:18 13:7 57:14 121:6 orderly 25:8 orders 187:3 organic 32:7 organization 10:25 48:2,8,9 70:4 75:2 104:25 155:3 175:9, 13 183:18 184:6,7 organizations 69:19 70:17 89:15 124:4,13 125:7 182:4 186:12 Organized 50:7 original 48:14 originate 124:3 Ottawa 167:8 outcomes 131:8 outlawed 179:17 outlined 192:22 output 105:14,15 outreach 109:21 181:1 182:3 overhead 105:9 overnight 49:7 overseas 113:4 174:6 overwhelming 164:21,23 owe 87:12 192:8 owned 37:8 45:8 110:15 112:11 154:23 owner 97:14 owners 75:16 oxygen 118:12</p> <hr/> <p align="center">P</p> <hr/> <p>P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N- G-S 5:2 paid 37:15 41:6 82:9 125:3 Pandora's 76:12 panel 88:12 panels 179:18 Panza 84:15 paper 91:25 96:12 parameters 192:21 parent 69:21 Paris 178:13 park 52:7 99:17 119:4,10 126:20 164:12 170:20 189:15,16 parking 46:18 194:5 Parkside 111:6</p>	<p>Parkview 178:2 part 12:2 13:1 34:8 63:19 80:16 98:1 101:12 132:14 133:17 156:11 175:11 176:9 180:25 181:4 189:17 part-time 57:8 participants 124:9 participate 69:22 participation 12:18 78:21,24 particulate 130:10, 13 particulates 130:15 parties 6:11,22 7:14 12:6 69:25 111:24 partner 75:20 partnered 141:14 partnership 129:4 154:10 185:24 parts 31:5 50:6 81:9 97:12 131:2 133:11 161:10 party 46:5 154:22 pass 12:11 68:23 117:12 135:16 140:12 passage 56:7 60:2 62:17 passed 6:2 71:9 passion 85:8 past 21:17 47:12 64:8,22 70:18 78:25 90:5 106:24 125:20 187:16 Pat 78:6,8,12,15 patently 42:16 patents 191:20 paths 114:24 patience 101:8 194:14 patiently 128:17 Patrick 92:3,5,9,12 pattern 60:20 patterns 60:13 61:15 149:7 Patton 158:23 159:3 Pause 44:7 193:16 pay 29:18 34:17 106:23 114:4 paychecks 113:25 paying 35:12 96:23 107:12 113:24 114:3 payment 96:8 PCBS 21:1,25 peaceful 83:9 Peele 42:20 pelagics 32:6 Pennsylvania 31:19,20 78:13 80:8 129:9 150:13 people 14:25 17:8, 24 21:22 23:12 29:19,</p>	<p>20 31:15 37:3 41:24 43:2 45:14 46:1,2,16, 21 49:8 53:2 67:8 78:2 79:13 80:11 88:16 91:14 104:23 107:10 111:20 113:24 114:13,19,21 134:23, 25 138:20 152:9 154:21 164:19 168:3 172:4 178:12 183:22 184:3 185:4 190:1 193:22 people's 26:22 181:9 peppered 40:21 peppering 38:17 40:16 perceived 72:14 161:17 171:13 percent 15:10,13,14 34:18 51:10,12 64:9, 12 65:13 73:3,16 80:17 84:5 88:23 106:25 110:3,4 123:17 131:17,19 133:6 139:25 140:2,3 143:21 153:17 154:6 156:19 165:14 percentage 64:4 Peregrine 157:20 perfect 103:6 146:5 159:22 180:12 perfected 144:8 perfectly 189:24 performance 97:8, 17 performing 125:4 perimeter 15:20 period 12:23 155:10 periodically 85:22 periods 186:15 perk 83:25 permit 54:7 permits 8:14 permitted 12:6 permitting 69:15 perpetuity 84:17 persistent 76:23 77:5 person 25:13 36:17 134:1 141:11 161:21 173:11 personal 14:19 148:22 161:18 personally 70:24 persons 152:5 perspective 159:5 162:18 181:11 pertaining 63:5 pertinent 97:20 petition 80:1 83:3 115:12</p>	<p>petitions 101:9 115:9 pharmaceutical 168:14 phase 61:7 phenomenal 104:25 Phillip 163:15 phone 164:17 phony 124:12 photograph 119:16 photographers 37:2 photoshopped 83:3 physical 82:7 physics 118:5 pick 9:13 91:19,22 picked 90:20 picket 81:18 picking 90:9 picture 91:6 119:5 pictures 83:4 piece 91:25 pieces 130:11 piercing 17:10 Pile 137:13 pilot 69:12 147:20 pinky 119:11 pioneers 125:25 pipeline 187:9,13, 14,17,19 pipelines 187:7,20 Pirik 6:13,18 43:6,8 44:8 place 5:8 57:12 84:11 106:22 157:20 185:7 186:16 places 137:22 182:19 placing 179:17 Plain 96:20 plan 8:21 11:8 48:17 56:18 60:5 82:13 planned 49:14 132:3 190:12 planning 171:19 176:2 plans 16:14 68:16 69:2 82:22 98:14 169:17 plant 86:20 104:14 105:2,3 179:7 plants 84:6 86:11, 12,15 105:10 114:8 129:25 130:9,12 Platform 39:3 124:22 play 161:2 pleased 149:25 pleasure 142:24</p>
---	---	---	--	--

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 **PUCO Hearing**

<p>plenty 91:4 plot 116:20 plumes 86:9 plummet 165:16 plundering 80:23 point 26:13,14 28:12 38:21 41:20 42:20 46:5,20 72:6 73:23 106:23 109:5,7 112:17,19 113:15 139:18 142:22 167:10 189:25 190:1 points 44:22 46:15 107:16 111:10 136:22 poised 161:13 poison 180:8 poisoning 21:20 poisonous 81:17 polarizing 14:24 poles 17:20 21:12 Police 157:7 policies 98:3 148:15 policy 48:10 72:18, 19 98:16 108:2 political 50:20 polluted 110:5 polluting 21:20 pollution 17:22 130:10,13,15,24 131:3 178:20 pop 112:25 Pope 192:13 population 53:10 population's 16:2 populations 56:9 125:12,14 porch 47:14 port 113:6 122:17 129:7 160:25 161:1, 11 173:19 portfolio 51:8,9 158:4,7 166:5 portion 37:7 portions 77:16 portrayed 183:17 ports 122:21 position 39:9 48:10 70:24 positioned 159:11 176:11 182:13 positioning 133:19 positions 152:4 positive 50:12 76:20 88:23 144:24 157:25 166:3 possibility 84:10 post 181:19 post-construction 8:20 61:18 63:16 142:13 potable 23:10</p>	<p>potential 32:5 50:9 53:7 59:18 68:4 70:22 73:15 86:6 131:9 159:23 160:13,22 161:20 163:1 177:4 185:25 potentially 17:19 44:23 56:5 112:10 113:9 169:20 Potter 139:8,10,14, 16 pounding 33:21 pouring 186:22 power 5:6,18,20 6:6 9:21 10:21 30:17 34:15,16,18,20 41:7 43:2 53:19 54:13,22 55:19 56:17 57:17 64:1 65:24 68:1,13 69:5,12,17 71:10,24, 25 73:21 75:3 79:18 80:19 84:6 85:13,23, 25 86:11,13,16,20 87:4,10,14 88:9,17 92:14,25 96:13,14,19, 23 97:25 103:12,15, 19,20 104:7,11,16,18, 24 105:5 107:1,9,10, 13,14 114:7,8 115:1 118:17,24 121:13 123:12,18 124:11 125:3,21 129:24,25 130:9,12 135:5 143:14 151:19 156:24 164:20 165:1,5,9,11 166:13 170:24 171:1, 2,4 176:20 178:20 179:6 180:4,7 184:24, 25 185:3 186:16 188:5 powerful 149:20 practice 124:6 practices 148:15 pre 63:16 pre- 60:16 61:17 pre-construction 61:7 precautions 184:16,21 precedent 156:23 precisely 119:12 predict 33:7 predicted 81:12 preeminence 127:9 preferred 82:7 Premier 35:5,6,15 40:11 41:16 42:5 prepared 11:11 prepped 138:9 present 5:24 11:3,22 13:4 88:23 92:18</p>	<p>presentation 95:20 presented 67:12,14 presently 59:2 presents 158:8 162:1 preservation 75:21 preserve 182:9 preside 5:18 president 47:25 69:1 136:19 137:12 151:23 presiding 14:3 128:5 pressing 104:8 pressure 82:17 pretty 107:14 109:4 155:6 previously 75:5 193:11 price 27:10 73:7 prices 96:16 165:13 pride 176:25 primary 57:5 60:3 prime 40:18 124:5 printed 116:10 prior 99:5 pristine 36:23 187:11 private 34:9 80:3 95:24 96:17 108:15 111:24 129:3 131:21 154:22 privately 110:14 privilege 30:23 probable 152:21 problem 43:13 86:17 105:20 106:5 179:11 problems 50:20 62:8 130:20 146:13 152:15,20 185:9 193:5 procedural 58:7 proceed 47:5 52:11 85:15 180:1 proceeding 8:5,22 11:1 proceedings 152:6 process 7:24 9:8 46:10,12 48:25 59:24 69:16 78:22 115:19 126:7 129:13 142:6 148:3 161:3 181:5 186:19 194:14 procured 51:11 produce 9:17 81:5 87:13 104:18 105:15 143:23 147:24 182:15 produced 45:18 87:4 145:13 147:16 149:22 181:13</p>	<p>producing 81:7 128:20 product 129:3 production 9:18 35:3 84:2 85:25 123:14 176:12,21 188:9 productive 88:2 127:12 193:23 products 138:6 professionals 159:8 profit 80:13 profit-making 80:20 program 53:15 128:6,7 142:11 progress 125:23 130:23 progressive 176:22 project 6:16 9:9,16, 19 16:14 18:1,13 19:11,18 21:15 22:5, 14,15 30:16 33:25 43:3 44:11 48:24 49:2,24 51:5,13,20 53:8 54:8,12,20,22 56:3,5,22 57:4,10 59:6 60:9,14 61:4,6, 17 62:21 66:3 67:13 68:3,4,9 69:13,14 70:4 71:19 73:18,25 74:24 75:9,12 76:3, 12,18 77:8 78:19 79:1,2,5 80:5,10 84:11 85:16 87:5,21 88:5,18,25 89:24 90:3,9 91:11 92:14,20 93:21,23 94:10,15 95:12 96:15 98:11,13, 20,22,23 100:2,6,9, 14,20 101:1,3 104:13 105:25 106:2 110:1, 10 113:20 115:13 116:7 117:9 121:11, 16,18 123:4 125:22 126:25 128:16 129:10,18 131:8 132:5,10,14,18 133:5, 16,24 135:1 136:21, 23,24 137:1,3,5,8,11, 15,19 138:12,17 139:1,21 140:4 141:19 142:5,9,14 143:1 147:3,20 151:4, 11 152:23 155:9 158:1,7 159:14,22 160:20 162:21 164:14 170:2,22 171:14,17 173:21,24 174:9,10, 13 176:4,6 177:4,11, 14 179:19,25 180:3,5, 25 185:10 186:12 188:3,10 190:4,6,23, 24 191:1 192:7,22 193:1,6,22 project's 56:14 57:24 projects 17:2 38:20 45:14 59:25 64:23 69:9,23 71:16 125:3 132:6 149:22 156:15 164:23 171:11 182:8, 12 193:3 promised 80:23 promote 75:15 promoting 148:13 pronounce 13:11 proof 117:13 properly 53:6 63:21 115:4 property 36:1,5,6,13 147:2 proponent 171:1 proponents 43:21 proportions 94:12 proposal 10:22 75:23 proposed 9:8,16,19 10:13 18:5 21:11 23:5 31:6 56:4,18 57:21 61:6 68:3 74:7 80:7 98:23 190:3 193:2 proposes 10:2 proposing 18:1 43:18 protect 32:22 54:15, 20 70:2 77:4 92:21 129:21 148:1 168:2 186:3 187:5 protected 16:6 111:14 Protection 61:2 protects 54:4 protest 80:12 protocols 57:22 62:12 proud 125:24 prove 55:23 153:13 proven 117:2 162:13 provide 11:2,12 13:7 25:9 26:8 65:8 69:5 74:23 88:20 97:15 115:17 121:6 176:19 177:5 194:16 provided 8:3 12:24 25:24 61:9 115:15 155:7 169:5 providing 46:22 65:23 70:20 122:25 province 40:15 province's 123:22 proximity 127:15</p>
--	--	---	---

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 **PUCO Hearing**

<p>prudent 65:3 public 5:7,22 7:19, 23 8:1,3 10:15,17 12:19,25 26:21 27:13 28:22 30:20 34:7,16 45:5 49:5 67:12,13, 15,17 69:6 75:9 78:20,24 79:1 80:24 91:13 94:21 96:5,6, 13,15,16,19,22 98:14, 15 102:20 111:11 112:6,14 116:12 118:15 121:20 124:12 129:3 131:7 144:1 145:10 148:5 152:13 153:4 154:14 158:24 161:19 165:5 166:7 185:3 186:15 187:6, 18 194:12 195:3,15 public-private 185:24 publicity 125:8 published 119:4 Puerto 181:19 purchase 34:2 96:14,16 158:3 purchased 86:14 purely 118:4,5 purpose 9:16 10:15 56:23 57:5,25 60:3 65:20 67:18 72:3 purposely 91:8 purposes 145:3 pursued 70:3 150:20 pursuing 16:11 push 19:14 pushed 93:24 pushing 16:11 33:22 put 18:2 35:15 43:2 45:2 50:11 54:24 59:21 73:9 85:8 98:10 106:17,21 141:17 147:10 160:7 170:5 184:8 185:8 puts 39:9 184:12 putting 44:23 90:3 112:10 153:25 189:18</p> <hr/> <p align="center">Q</p> <p>quality 23:3 35:25 76:6 87:7 129:21 166:4 quarter 119:14 142:17 question 10:19 16:9 17:1 29:16 61:12 62:14 63:10 75:18 81:2 117:3 134:22 questioned 159:16 questions 6:3,5 12:7,8 70:16 79:2</p>	<p>95:22 184:18,20 194:6,9,11 quick 9:7 86:18 111:10 136:15,17,21 quicker 78:2 122:2 quickly 25:11 150:18 quiet 36:22 37:4 quietly 22:22 Quigley 93:6,8,12, 13,15 Quixote 84:15 quote 16:22 31:17 60:2 68:2 98:1 117:6 146:2 quoted 96:20 quoting 96:21</p> <hr/> <p align="center">R</p> <p>R-I-M 158:14 racing 83:12 radar 14:23 24:24 64:18 91:6,7 114:16, 23 115:2,3 142:20 145:5 153:11 railroad 86:19,21 railway 179:10 raised 113:17 143:18 166:10 Ralston 74:11,13, 17,20 range 64:6 ranging 15:22 ranking 131:3 rapidly 51:1 raptors 32:1 rate 34:6,12,18 35:12 37:9 91:21 139:24 155:9 ratepayers 99:2 rates 114:1 178:21 rating 10:4 ration 24:20 read 15:10 64:14 79:25 112:1 127:7 152:19 readily 87:15 reading 13:12 25:24 27:25 28:10,11 169:13 ready 174:7,8 real 72:14 106:21 107:20 109:4 124:8 136:14,17 149:16 152:5 185:9 reality 65:5 79:17 88:8 129:2 159:12 161:23 realize 103:17 117:15 160:22 178:24 179:5</p>	<p>realtime 142:1 reaping 162:14 reason 103:11 114:4 135:14 185:1 reasonable 12:23 56:19 70:1 72:21 107:14 reasons 61:20 103:10 rebalance 158:4 rebirth 88:6 receive 10:16 received 67:16 70:5, 14 72:1 138:7 141:15 155:2 157:6 receiving 38:11 recent 133:1 144:12 153:9 173:16 recently 33:6 118:9 recess 101:19 recession 87:17 recognize 14:5 recognized 47:22 recommend 64:13 65:12 192:25 recommendation 8:23 recommendations 54:6,23 recommended 9:10 92:22 97:6 recommending 152:17 recommends 8:10 64:3 97:8 record 5:5 11:10 12:2 13:1 19:24 25:19 28:16,17,19 30:11 35:6 36:2 44:9 48:10 52:19 55:8 58:21 87:17 101:12 109:24 114:14 127:6 134:16 144:1 145:10 162:10 177:25 189:4 Recovery 141:16 recreational 36:25 67:3 149:12 170:23 recyclable 81:14 107:1 red 83:7 Red-breasted 53:10 reduce 52:24 65:16 178:20 reduced 178:12 reduces 129:25 130:9 reducing 129:24 130:8,23 178:19 reduction 123:7 165:20</p>	<p>reductions 178:10 reevaluation 169:24 refer 69:2 156:8 reference 24:11 44:22 117:12 155:1 referenced 40:10 references 48:21 68:24 referring 71:23 117:23 reflect 8:24 11:10 refrain 13:5 25:6 121:25 refused 97:3 region 113:18 123:10 128:21,25 133:19 147:14 161:4 175:4 181:14 regional 98:15 151:13 regionally 47:22 registered 27:19 132:13 regular 106:14 regulations 129:11 regulatory 59:14 63:8 rehab 90:15 Reilly 172:15,17,22 173:1 Reinvestment 141:16 reiterate 46:9 155:23 rejected 150:23 151:20 related 24:7 48:12 71:19 117:23 178:24 relating 95:22 181:9 relation 118:8 relations 94:21 relative 60:9 release 22:1 90:16 releasing 81:17 relevance 71:21 relevant 51:17 71:23 reliability 153:1 reliable 23:19 reliant 171:21 rely 148:24 remarks 25:11 38:14 194:15 remember 94:1,2 103:2 168:7 184:9 remind 44:15,21 134:3 reminded 192:14 removal 73:25 97:1, 16 remove 97:23 168:19</p>	<p>removed 81:22 renaissance 159:20 render 57:20 renew 71:12 renewable 9:20 48:10,17 51:11 52:13 85:24 87:10 90:1 92:16 98:22 133:20 142:3,12 146:14 149:22 159:9,24 162:16,24 164:20 176:20 181:12,23 186:4 renewables 10:2 22:9 23:15 27:16 34:4 53:1 70:6 80:14 112:4 renewal 162:5 rental 73:5 renting 73:8 repeat 183:15 repeated 124:17 report 8:8,10,22 9:4, 10 52:20 55:19 56:17, 21 57:17,23 58:2,6 59:17,19,21 60:3 62:18 63:4 65:12 68:14 96:9 97:4,14 98:12 130:25 150:17 154:12 report's 57:21 reported 63:8 96:12 97:22 118:9 139:23 reporter 11:7,9,13, 21 134:5 reports 87:8 repose 81:22 represent 38:23 47:20 66:22 102:17 104:2 139:1 175:2 184:4 representation 144:16,18 152:10 representative 65:5,17 194:7 representatives 14:16 42:13 represented 150:24 representing 55:15 85:18 102:11,18 152:13 157:22 164:2 173:2 represents 48:2 131:9 132:23 133:17 reproduce 145:25 request 57:17 63:4 93:2 142:13 requested 160:12 requests 67:9 69:4 70:11 74:3 require 56:21 67:22 73:7</p>
---	--	---	--	--

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018

PUCO Hearing

<p>required 8:14 73:24 74:5 96:10 97:10 137:1 161:6 requirement 63:17 requirements 160:11 requires 51:10 60:21 78:20 120:2 161:8 research 31:10 39:9,13 59:3,7 64:8 76:1 114:12 162:21 184:18 researching 15:5 reservations 55:21 Reserve 147:7 reside 164:6 resided 164:10 resident 7:8 128:9 164:8 166:10 residential 159:21 residents 15:19 18:20 24:16 34:21 35:11 36:24 80:2 102:19 165:24 171:9 resins 81:15 resolution 109:24 177:10,13 resolved 62:9 resource 19:22 23:20 29:15 30:3 37:4 62:7 100:18,19 160:1 168:3 171:19 resources 14:10 53:18 54:3,17 60:7 96:3 99:4 127:16 160:8 166:3 186:9 respected 125:6 respectfully 57:16 177:12 respond 83:22 respondents 73:4 response 119:19,20 responses 53:21 responsible 29:21 rest 140:3 191:6 restored 168:25 restricted 46:17 rests 20:3 result 61:17 71:8 123:7 146:5 147:16 163:2 186:13 retired 59:4 retirement 97:1 returned 82:3 reveals 130:25 Revely 93:13 revenue 165:10 reverse 178:9 review 29:7 75:7 119:24 160:12 186:19</p>	<p>reviewed 12:3 101:13 190:24 reviewing 30:22 186:17 reviews 129:12 160:10 revisions 58:8 59:24 Reynolds 45:15 rich 127:15 Richard 68:25 Rico 181:19 ridiculous 104:20 rightly 50:8 82:25 rights 26:22 27:3,8, 12 rigor 62:10 Rim 158:11,14 ring 189:10 risk 33:13 37:10,16 130:19 Ritter 154:2,3 rival 192:2 river 30:13 47:16 92:10 94:1 111:6 116:4 118:18,25 159:18 168:7 178:25 187:12 rivers 94:7 130:5 187:5 Road 13:23 58:24 74:18 78:13 134:18 150:12 Robbins 175:16 Robert 7:9 Rochester 46:2 rocket 140:6 Rocky 30:13 92:10 111:6 116:3 role 161:1 Ronn 68:24 183:24 room 104:13 108:20 137:9 141:12 144:15 roosting 117:22 Rosanne 139:8,10, 14,16 Rosewood 189:7 rotation 117:18 rotational 117:25 118:5 rotting 117:6 Rouge 178:25 roughly 48:5 route 56:8 routes 149:8 Rover 187:9,14,17 rpms 118:2 RPR 195:3,14 rubber 155:6 ruining 17:12 run 36:25 run-off 118:11</p>	<p>runners 36:25 runs 47:17 rural 16:4 rushed 150:18 rusting 17:10 RVAFLINT 24:12</p> <hr/> <p>S</p> <hr/> <p>sad 79:17 sadly 81:20 safe 24:9 37:14 187:25 188:5 safeguard 92:21 safeguards 185:7 safer 146:4 165:3 safety 8:16 76:24 114:11 117:7 187:6, 18 sailboat 83:12 sailing 107:22 sailor 79:22 sailors 37:1 sale 112:3 Sales 126:23 salesman 154:2 salt 15:11,12 17:3,16 23:25 sample 62:15 samples 18:9 San 181:19 Sancho 84:15 Sandusky 167:9 Sarah 121:23 122:4, 9,13 sat 79:22 satellites 110:15 satisfaction 171:11 satisfied 179:25 Saudi 16:25 saves 53:1 saving 149:15 scale 17:5 57:13 68:4,11 176:12 scales 181:23 scam 40:11 Scarborough 38:7 scarcity 16:1 scared 125:17 scene 128:13 schedule 9:3 54:13 58:7 84:7 scheduled 8:5 Scheutzwow 84:19, 21,25 85:1,4,19 Schmidt 31:18 163:15 Schock 143:4,6,10, 13 schools 36:7,15 137:24 science 55:23 56:20 57:12 59:13 66:2</p>	<p>90:15 146:3 178:5 scientific 40:20 56:15 57:22 59:9,23 62:10 65:10 121:14 127:11 scientifically 60:15 62:15 63:20 65:3 scientist 45:18 123:3 140:6 scientists 37:13 scope 175:8 192:18, 19 scratching 81:10 Scudder 140:15,17, 21 141:1 sea 107:21 144:24 145:21,22,24 Sea-doo 18:7 seal 195:10 seamen's 161:4 seas 17:5 seascapes 156:21 season 65:18 seasonal 57:7 seasons 149:8 seat 29:2 seats 5:5 Secret 6:19 Secretary 85:12 Section 97:6 sector 49:17 53:1 131:24 176:11 secure 19:15 secured 186:7 sediment 19:25 20:3 22:24 118:13,17 160:9 sedimentation 149:5 segments 63:22 selection 48:24 Senators 14:13 sense 135:12,13 sensitive 40:18 82:1 sentences 29:1 serve 9:21 47:20 98:13 114:17 136:18 152:24 153:4 served 47:10 189:8 service 30:25 32:16 59:6 126:4 141:6 143:24 153:10 161:14 186:10 Services 14:9 serving 47:25 48:3 session 10:20 81:3 102:11 set 10:22 53:19,22, 25 94:23 129:18 147:10 178:13 182:11 195:9</p>	<p>setting 62:13 182:6 settle 19:6 settled 21:3 settles 63:2 settling 167:7 severe 149:4 Shaker 134:19 shallow 31:22 32:5, 9 shape 94:8 share 40:3 190:18 shatters 41:2 Shaw 172:22 sheet 9:6 11:19 91:5 sheets 13:12 Sherri 37:21 38:1,5,8 Sherri's 113:15 Sherrod 150:12 Shieldcastle 58:15, 17,22,23 59:1 shift 146:14 shifted 146:1 shill 82:9 Shingary 163:14 ship 108:8 shipped 108:10 113:2 ships 113:4 shocked 151:19 shore 31:25 32:22 35:23 36:4 80:6 83:17 144:10,21 167:7 189:22 Shoreland 92:10 shoreline 20:2 81:25 133:3,6,11 153:12,16 shores 75:1 short 101:7,19 short-term 76:22 shortage 97:22 shortened 43:24 shouting 25:7 show 50:22 79:11 128:16 130:23 149:20 155:8,10 showed 156:12 showing 45:19 124:18 shown 125:12 shows 91:8 119:17 144:12 145:12,14 192:24 shut 46:19 shutting 8:17 sic 45:16 sicken 180:7 side 14:25 15:2 78:5 103:22 150:25 179:3 189:12 sides 51:16 135:8 163:7 189:11</p>
--	---	---	--	---

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018

PUCO Hearing

<p>Siegfried 5:22</p> <p>Sierra 7:2 31:19</p> <p>125:1 129:15 151:5</p> <p>sign 11:15 101:10</p> <p>115:12 193:11</p> <p>sign-up 11:19</p> <p>signed 11:19 24:3</p> <p>25:10 27:15 34:1</p> <p>69:25 72:19 115:11</p> <p>188:15,17 193:9</p> <p>significant 35:25</p> <p>49:16 53:9,14 105:22</p> <p>160:3 186:13</p> <p>significantly 117:18</p> <p>120:15 133:8</p> <p>signing 134:11</p> <p>silent 126:9</p> <p>Silicon 192:2</p> <p>silly 36:16</p> <p>silver 94:5,13</p> <p>similar 72:18</p> <p>simple 17:7 106:20</p> <p>simplest 178:15</p> <p>simply 8:23</p> <p>Singh 180:11,12,16, 20,23</p> <p>single 79:14 173:8</p> <p>Sirius 120:9</p> <p>sister 70:8</p> <p>Sisters 179:6</p> <p>sit 14:13,16 29:10 30:24</p> <p>site 18:6,16 24:13</p> <p>56:4 60:14 190:4</p> <p>sited 53:6</p> <p>siting 5:6,18,20 6:6</p> <p>10:21 14:6 30:17,22</p> <p>31:3 53:19 54:13,22</p> <p>55:19 56:17 57:17</p> <p>58:4 64:1 65:25 68:1, 14 69:5,12,17 71:10, 24 72:1 73:21 75:3</p> <p>80:19 85:13 88:17</p> <p>92:25 97:25 115:1</p> <p>121:13 135:5 151:20</p> <p>156:25 169:1,15</p> <p>180:4 182:22 184:16</p> <p>186:16</p> <p>sits 18:13,16 20:7 34:8</p> <p>sitting 20:24 22:22</p> <p>situation 168:10</p> <p>situations 114:20</p> <p>sixteenths 119:15</p> <p>size 118:4 119:2,8, 10,14 144:19</p> <p>skilled 88:1</p> <p>skin 14:19</p> <p>skip 32:24</p> <p>sky 83:1,9 120:13</p> <p>slaughtered 81:24</p>	<p>sludge 19:8,12 20:7</p> <p>21:10,15 22:21,25</p> <p>small 173:12</p> <p>smaller 133:8</p> <p>156:19</p> <p>smart 35:18</p> <p>smoke 79:7</p> <p>smooth 79:15</p> <p>snap 17:20</p> <p>sneaking 39:17</p> <p>Society 32:13,15</p> <p>52:14 89:16 125:2</p> <p>141:11 142:10</p> <p>145:14,18 146:11</p> <p>167:20 169:9</p> <p>soil 18:8 186:25</p> <p>187:22</p> <p>solar 41:6,11 42:1</p> <p>53:4 85:23 178:16</p> <p>179:18</p> <p>sold 70:14</p> <p>solstice 189:19,23</p> <p>solution 191:15</p> <p>solutions 59:18</p> <p>97:21</p> <p>songbird 65:7</p> <p>songbirds 31:25</p> <p>32:17 64:5 108:24</p> <p>Sons 176:16</p> <p>sooner 126:6</p> <p>soot 130:11,18 131:3 179:4</p> <p>Sopko 176:16</p> <p>sort 102:25 112:5</p> <p>sought 147:19</p> <p>sound 33:18,21</p> <p>59:13 62:15 65:9 66:2</p> <p>83:18 98:2,16 161:24</p> <p>sounds 41:22 71:18</p> <p>source 23:23 51:12</p> <p>67:7 92:16 129:22</p> <p>158:6 165:1 176:25</p> <p>sources 145:25</p> <p>159:10 162:6 168:4, 12</p> <p>South 7:11</p> <p>Southwest 142:18</p> <p>spacecraft 110:15</p> <p>Spain 39:23</p> <p>speak 11:8 24:5</p> <p>25:14 26:11 28:7</p> <p>39:11 55:15 72:5</p> <p>80:5,9 91:25 111:9</p> <p>141:3 142:8,24</p> <p>155:20 157:23 167:2</p> <p>171:8 175:5 176:4</p> <p>180:24 181:4 193:12</p> <p>speaker 29:3 78:3</p> <p>122:1</p> <p>speakers 192:5</p> <p>speaking 51:18</p> <p>93:16 108:14,15</p>	<p>181:2</p> <p>specialties 59:8</p> <p>species 31:7 45:20</p> <p>52:21 56:9,11,13</p> <p>60:7,13,24 61:1,8,9, 15 63:7,15,18 64:11</p> <p>146:15 148:24</p> <p>specific 64:25</p> <p>specifically 38:17</p> <p>71:10 147:12 171:2</p> <p>181:20</p> <p>speed 83:25 117:25</p> <p>118:4,6</p> <p>spell 155:16</p> <p>spending 72:25</p> <p>110:17 114:9</p> <p>spent 79:9 98:21</p> <p>189:17</p> <p>spill 137:6</p> <p>spilled 186:24</p> <p>187:10,14</p> <p>spinning 103:4</p> <p>113:11 114:25</p> <p>spite 75:10</p> <p>spoil 178:18</p> <p>spoils 118:20</p> <p>spoke 108:18 141:8</p> <p>148:5</p> <p>sponsors 124:7</p> <p>spot 73:5 138:2</p> <p>spotty 84:3</p> <p>spreading 116:12</p> <p>square 141:19</p> <p>158:24</p> <p>Squire 158:23 159:3</p> <p>staff 5:19 8:8,10,22</p> <p>9:3,5,9 11:16 26:4</p> <p>54:5,23 55:19 56:17, 21 57:17,21,23 58:1,6</p> <p>59:17,19,21 60:3</p> <p>62:17 63:4 65:12</p> <p>68:14 72:20 92:24</p> <p>96:9 97:4 98:12</p> <p>115:10,18 124:13</p> <p>150:17 152:17</p> <p>154:12,25 156:3,8</p> <p>164:16 191:2 194:6</p> <p>staff's 8:23</p> <p>staging 122:19</p> <p>153:15 161:2</p> <p>Stamco 120:24</p> <p>stamped 155:6</p> <p>stand 42:18 113:9</p> <p>116:6 128:16 136:17</p> <p>138:25</p> <p>standard 51:10</p> <p>53:23 59:25 182:6,11</p> <p>standards 51:8</p> <p>53:17,25 54:9,10</p> <p>standing 5:25</p> <p>star 120:8</p>	<p>Stark 167:3 187:12</p> <p>Starlite 126:20</p> <p>stars 120:12</p> <p>start 16:15 110:17</p> <p>168:8</p> <p>started 101:15,22</p> <p>102:5 142:6</p> <p>starts 47:16</p> <p>state 8:14 11:25</p> <p>13:20 14:13,15 20:14</p> <p>22:12 30:10 31:20</p> <p>38:3 52:5 55:7 58:1, 20 59:8 60:1,10 66:14</p> <p>70:2 71:8 72:18 73:2</p> <p>74:16 75:20 76:22</p> <p>77:7,17,21 78:11</p> <p>84:24 96:4 100:4</p> <p>103:23 111:20 116:1</p> <p>122:7 126:17 127:24</p> <p>129:12 130:25 131:2</p> <p>134:16 136:10 139:13</p> <p>151:10 154:21 157:17</p> <p>158:20 163:21 164:22</p> <p>166:20 170:15 175:22</p> <p>177:24 179:15 180:19</p> <p>183:10 185:18 187:3</p> <p>188:5 189:3 195:4,15</p> <p>state's 123:17</p> <p>stated 31:20 63:12</p> <p>96:5 116:11,15 117:1</p> <p>120:17,19 121:20</p> <p>statement 11:11</p> <p>12:8,20 14:1 25:24</p> <p>26:10 28:1,25 30:15</p> <p>38:8 47:6 52:12 55:11</p> <p>59:1 66:19 74:20</p> <p>78:15 85:4,6 89:13</p> <p>92:12 93:15 95:11</p> <p>99:20 102:9 109:19</p> <p>111:8 116:5 122:13</p> <p>126:21 128:3 134:20</p> <p>136:13 139:16 141:1</p> <p>143:13 147:1 150:16</p> <p>152:9 154:8 157:21</p> <p>159:1,2 164:1 167:1</p> <p>170:18 173:1 175:1</p> <p>176:1 178:3 180:23</p> <p>183:14 185:19,22</p> <p>189:5</p> <p>statements 12:23</p> <p>13:4 25:12 72:22</p> <p>99:24 116:14 121:13</p> <p>states 10:8 20:1,21</p> <p>21:23 22:13 27:19</p> <p>48:6 49:15 62:18 63:6</p> <p>68:1,15 78:23 86:16</p> <p>100:17 111:16 132:11</p> <p>159:14</p> <p>States' 80:18</p> <p>statewide 148:16</p> <p>164:4</p>	<p>stations 103:21</p> <p>statistics 139:23</p> <p>184:17</p> <p>status 15:8 150:21</p> <p>statute 116:22</p> <p>119:13 120:5</p> <p>stay 12:15</p> <p>steadily 102:23</p> <p>steel 105:17 106:21</p> <p>Steirer 170:10,12, 16,18</p> <p>stenotype 195:8</p> <p>stenotypy 195:7</p> <p>Stephen 127:19,21</p> <p>128:1,3 134:2,7,8,10, 13,20 163:17,19,23</p> <p>164:1</p> <p>Steps 189:20</p> <p>Steve 146:18,20,23</p> <p>147:1 177:18,22</p> <p>178:1,3</p> <p>Steven 134:17</p> <p>stewards 87:11</p> <p>stick 105:18</p> <p>stimulus 160:18</p> <p>stipulated 92:22</p> <p>stipulations 70:13</p> <p>stir 118:17,24</p> <p>stirred 21:18 23:1</p> <p>stock 80:15</p> <p>stone 106:4</p> <p>stood 20:14,15</p> <p>90:24</p> <p>stop 68:22 69:8</p> <p>187:2</p> <p>stopping 46:20</p> <p>187:8</p> <p>storms 149:4</p> <p>straight 190:4</p> <p>Strane 30:6,8,12,15</p> <p>36:21 40:10</p> <p>Strane's 38:14</p> <p>strata 65:14</p> <p>strategies 62:6</p> <p>strategy 50:5</p> <p>stratification 65:11, 15</p> <p>stratify 65:4</p> <p>Street 6:19 7:11</p> <p>47:13 89:10 136:12</p> <p>170:17 175:24</p> <p>strengths 77:12</p> <p>stressed 32:3</p> <p>strictest 129:11</p> <p>strictly 104:5</p> <p>strike 90:10</p> <p>strikes 90:13</p> <p>strive 59:12</p> <p>strobe 83:8</p> <p>strong 50:24 65:1</p> <p>88:1 123:1 129:3</p> <p>182:11</p>
--	---	--	---	---

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 PUCO Hearing

<p>stronger 50:25 strongly 78:24 93:18 97:11 166:11 169:15 Strongsville 99:18 104:15 structure 106:11,22 107:18 119:13 122:22 structures 76:14 122:20 125:11 171:25 172:3,5 struggle 178:23 Stuart 5:21 student 171:3 studied 61:24 63:1 143:15 studies 15:9 31:4 32:15 57:14 62:23 64:23 125:5 153:11 155:12 160:9 182:3 186:8 191:3 study 59:10 61:20 62:2 65:4,9 73:2,9,14 98:19 117:13,15,23 142:14 147:11,15 155:11 156:9,10,12, 13,24 169:7 179:24 192:21 studying 134:24 stuff 108:6,9 sub-condition 64:2, 15 subject 7:18 8:12 33:12 71:16 subjective 156:7 submerged 10:6 125:13 submit 19:23 25:18, 22 26:3,5 28:4 29:8 46:12 48:9 143:25 145:10 177:12 submits 9:15 submitted 31:10 52:15 114:14 119:7 submitting 13:6 46:10 52:18 subnational 41:3 subsidies 41:6 110:16 subsidize 114:1 subsidy 84:13 substances 130:6 substantial 152:5 substation 10:8 suburb 158:2 189:10 success 68:5 successful 192:23 successfully 145:24 sucking 84:13 sudden 103:19 112:25</p>	<p>suffer 82:6 sufficient 8:21 56:24 suffocated 82:16 suggest 119:24 Suite 7:3,11 Suites 126:24 Sullivan 13:15,17,22 14:1 24:1,6 25:4,6,9, 15,17,21 26:1,7,12,16 27:20,21,22 28:2,8,9, 10,14,20,24 29:4,7, 11,25 32:25 Sullivan's 38:14 sulphur 86:9 sum 33:23 summary 9:9 96:7 summer 189:23 summertime 155:14 Summit 174:24 sums 125:4 sun 189:24 Sundays 138:21 Sunoco 187:2 sunset 128:12 Superior 183:12 supplemented 7:20 suppliers 138:4 supplies 15:18 123:17 149:3 supply 25:1 79:20 123:23 126:5 132:9 173:24 176:10 182:17 support 53:25 54:3, 5,21 55:18 58:6 65:10,24 77:8 78:3 85:14 89:21 92:13 97:11 98:2 100:1 109:25 115:12 116:7 125:21 126:24 127:5 128:16 135:3,9,15 136:16 138:25 139:21 140:10 142:4,11 147:3 148:8,11 151:8, 10 161:5 164:13,22, 23 166:11 170:22 176:4 177:11,14 180:24 190:19 supported 129:5 132:18 159:9 supporter 100:3 supporters 150:1 155:19,22 supporting 93:18 155:8 supportive 49:23 50:8 59:22 supports 53:5 73:1 supposed 152:18 supposedly 19:5</p>	<p>Supreme 152:2 surface 15:11 31:25 32:7 80:18 surfaced 71:7 surgery 84:7 Surrey 116:3 surround 111:16 surrounding 15:20 162:21 survey 61:10 Susan 7:10 susceptible 17:12 sustainability 109:23 141:9 190:13 193:21 sustainable 90:1 148:15 158:6 165:19 166:6 186:2 sustainably 188:6 Suzanne 172:15,17, 22 173:1 Swamp 31:9 55:12, 16,17 59:3,11 89:17, 21 93:19 155:4 sweltering 79:12 swimmer 128:11 swimmer's 119:6 swindlers 84:14 sworn 13:18 30:9 38:2 47:3 52:3 55:5 58:18 66:12 74:14 78:9 84:22 89:6 92:6 93:9 95:5 99:12 102:2 109:13 111:2 115:24 122:5 126:16 127:22 134:14 136:8 139:11 140:18 143:7 146:21 150:8 157:15 158:19 163:20 166:19 170:13 172:18 174:19 175:20 177:23 180:17 183:8 185:16 189:2 sympathize 138:19 system 9:21 64:18 86:24 88:3 152:25</p> <hr/> <p align="center">T</p> <hr/> <p>T-O-Y-N-B-E-E 38:6 table 134:22 174:5 taking 6:10 18:8 33:14 37:17 84:11 127:13 163:7 186:15 talk 15:7 26:3,4 29:24 34:14 36:1 42:8,25 50:17 100:10 111:11 113:13 114:11 190:12 talked 104:2 116:10 talking 21:24 46:1 73:19 108:1 135:17 164:19 181:6</p>	<p>talks 112:19 120:12 tall 19:15 119:13 145:7 tank 41:5 tap 24:21 Task 48:16 147:5,6 tasked 159:7 tax 34:5 36:1,9 37:8 98:20 165:9 taxes 36:5,7,13 taxpayer 18:24 19:11 24:22 34:11 taxpayers 16:17 22:12 Taylor 121:23 122:4, 9,12,13 team 64:8 143:15 181:1 tech 192:3 technologies 54:9 123:15 technology 39:15, 17 87:14 144:5,8 146:3,8 162:13 165:24 169:11 174:6 182:5 191:25 Ted 163:16 telemetry 61:11 telescope 149:20 telling 157:10 tells 52:21 178:6 temperature 145:22 149:9 temperatures 79:11 146:7 temporary 73:20 113:5,10,12,20 148:22 ten 64:3,6,10 101:16 156:5 165:13 173:9 183:21 185:5 194:4 tend 14:25 tens 42:22 tenure 59:6 Terrence 6:18 territories 41:24 territory 172:6 test 168:15 184:8 185:8 tested 168:16 testified 13:18 30:9 31:19 38:2 47:3 52:3, 16 55:5 58:18 66:12 74:14 78:9 84:22 89:6 92:6 93:9 95:5 99:12 102:2 109:13 111:2 115:24 122:5 126:16 127:22 134:14 136:8 139:11 140:18 143:7 146:21 150:8 157:15 158:19 163:20 166:19 170:13 172:18 174:19</p>	<p>175:20 177:23 180:17 183:8 185:16 189:2 testify 11:8,15 12:10 24:3 43:22 46:17 115:11 164:7 193:10 testifying 12:13 71:15,17 testimony 8:3 11:4, 22 12:1,22 13:6 14:17 15:3 29:8 30:23 43:14,17 71:14 93:18 113:16 114:14 115:14 134:4 177:13 testing 76:10 168:12 tests 50:22 thanking 163:4 Thanksgiving 138:21 Tharp 158:12,16,18, 22 159:1 thick 106:10 thing 15:7 21:13 37:16 39:14 44:23 50:22 71:14 90:12 107:18 136:14 155:17 168:1 170:6 181:15 184:9,11,13 things 25:7 28:6 42:17 46:14 72:4 78:1 104:22 109:2 112:23 114:24 122:1 146:5 147:9,19 155:21 156:17 167:17 184:23 190:21 192:4,5 193:4 thinking 49:10 Thirdly 169:11 thirst 16:2 Thomas 13:14,17,22 14:1 thought 37:14 41:13 49:7 155:6 thoughtfulness 75:3 thoughts 24:25 thousands 34:25 35:11,23 56:5 69:10 82:20 117:2,6,10 120:20 131:10 164:16,17 threat 32:24 100:6 threaten 76:24 77:5 threatened 52:22 63:7,14 149:2 threatening 184:24 187:22 threats 149:17 threefold 85:18 thrilling 125:22 thrust 23:15 thumping 33:18 tied 169:16</p>
--	--	--	--	---

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 **PUCO Hearing**

<p>Tim 89:2 time 5:7 6:9,24 7:16 12:14,23 13:11 28:3 29:12 30:1 40:8 43:19 45:13,24 57:15,19 59:20 78:5,19 84:5 93:22 94:14 104:17 112:16 117:16 121:21 133:6 155:10 162:15 163:8 170:8 184:10 190:20 193:7,12 times 24:16 34:11 35:12 42:16 83:18 112:17 114:2 118:7 171:24 Times-news 154:4 tiny 120:14 Tippit 183:2 title 111:19 today 15:9,15,24 17:3 20:19,20 23:4,20 24:10 35:5 38:15,16 47:9 75:10,11 85:14, 17 108:1 117:19 129:1 144:16 148:6 159:10 163:5 167:23 177:12 178:4 today's 11:2 told 70:18 81:6 90:6 96:17 97:3 Toledo 55:10 Tom 143:4,6,10,13 150:5,7,11,16 172:10 189:1,5,6 ton 137:2 tonight 5:16 26:10 59:16 88:10 93:16 112:2 124:17 129:23 132:24 134:22 141:8 142:25 143:18 154:16 159:4 164:2 176:4 192:10 194:8 tonight's 11:6 12:18 95:17 194:12 tons 38:18 81:21 86:19,23 toothpicks 17:21 top 20:24 topic 85:8 97:19 Toronto 38:7,24 42:19 tort 22:15 total 10:5 162:6 totally 79:4 142:11 touch 138:12 tourism 72:24,25 73:10,12 77:13 100:11 tourists 36:24 tower 16:18 108:18 125:14 158:23 176:15,17</p>	<p>towers 16:15 17:11 18:2,25 19:3 116:21 117:17,21 176:24 town 24:17 179:3 towns 48:3 toxic 19:7,12 20:3 21:2,10,16 86:9 toxicity 23:8 toxifying 21:20 toxins 186:22 Toynbee 38:6 track 191:3 trade 127:2 trades 132:22 136:16,20 137:4 138:1,12,23 139:2 tradesmen 138:15 tradition 126:3 traditional 84:6 tragic 146:15 Trail 38:6,7 trains 179:10 trajectory 131:25 tranquility 161:25 transcribed 11:7 transcript 195:8 transfer 27:8 transferred 107:3 112:17 transforming 52:25 transmission 9:21 98:4 105:9 171:20 transparency 62:10 83:2,11 135:7 transparent 112:7 169:4 transplant 159:15 transportation 88:2 119:25 traveled 167:5 traveling 82:12 travels 33:18 traverse 24:17 treated 62:25 treatment 179:12 tremendous 43:2 77:21 86:7 160:8 165:22 trenching 118:23 trillion 15:17 19:21 troubled 150:17 troubling 152:1 true 42:12 81:14 101:1 108:25 195:7 truer 65:17 trust 26:21 27:13 28:22 34:8 45:5 74:6 80:24 96:25 111:12, 18,19 154:14,16,19, 20 truth 11:25 39:4,11 124:24</p>	<p>tug 113:6 tugs 137:1 tune 46:3 turbine 6:16 8:16 10:3 16:11,24 17:6,20 18:25 19:16 23:18,22 31:6 32:18 33:2 39:15 43:11 50:6 67:12 81:9 82:10 83:25 92:14 94:20,23 106:14 108:5 116:22 120:3, 24 125:11 141:12,13, 17,22,24 142:7 151:9 156:13,15 158:1 161:2 165:13 169:16, 25 171:5,6 turbines 8:17 16:20 17:14 18:6 21:11 22:19 31:2,14 32:21 33:8,9,10,16,22,23 34:10,19,24 35:23 36:4,10,12 40:12,17, 25 44:24 54:14 55:23 56:6 67:6,15,17,23 69:10 73:5 74:6,25 76:4,8 77:14 78:18 81:5,11 82:5,25 83:5, 16,20 84:1 90:4 91:19 92:18 93:3 97:2 102:21 103:4,7 107:21 108:1 110:11, 12 112:10,22 113:1 114:15 116:15 117:2 119:3,5,9,17,20 120:18,20 121:4 122:21 125:17 126:9 128:20 133:1,3,10 144:13,20,23 145:12, 14 155:15 156:4,6,7, 18,20 160:15 162:9, 12 169:14,18 172:1 176:19 179:17 190:6 turn 33:9 83:23 86:24 88:11 turned 81:2 125:25 171:4 turning 58:12 161:24 turnpike 179:9 Tuscarawas 187:12 Twenty 15:14 Twinsburg 139:15 type 17:21 135:22 169:18,25 types 16:4 typical 154:9</p> <hr/> <p align="center">U</p> <hr/> <p>U.S. 15:18 16:17 19:11 67:24 87:10 112:24 119:24 132:4 153:10 156:11 161:6,</p>	<p>8 162:3,16 186:8,10 UK 39:23 unable 95:13 159:4 unanimous 109:24 unanimously 177:9 uncertainty 77:1 uncharted 172:6 undermine 57:24 underneath 20:4 understand 57:3 76:17 77:7 104:24 111:12 112:6 140:7 149:15 167:14,20 171:12 understanding 30:17 understands 42:5 undertaken 57:15 undisclosed 27:1 undisturbed 22:23 unemployment 87:17 139:24 unexpected 33:4 unimpeded 82:19 Union 166:23 unions 132:19,23 unique 31:21 32:4 49:1 166:1 uniquely 161:13 United 22:13 27:19 48:6 49:14 80:17 100:17 132:11 156:16 159:14 University 73:3 unknown 181:16 unlike 49:17 unlimited 160:1 unmanageable 84:3 unobstructed 33:19 unproven 19:18 22:19 unrealistic 73:9 unreliable 84:3 unstorable 84:4 unsupported 161:23 unsustainable 171:22 untenable 42:2 untrue 79:4 unworkable 82:23 update 136:3 updates 157:6 upper 58:12 upside 86:25 urban 16:5 urge 42:5 58:7 75:11 77:11,19,20 80:19 88:16 92:25 99:1,4 166:11 169:1 178:9</p>	<p>180:4 188:9 192:25 Ursula 183:3 user 170:23 usual 124:14 utilities 9:22 51:6 171:8 Utility 176:12 utilize 141:25 166:2</p> <hr/> <p align="center">V</p> <hr/> <p>vacation 73:5 Valley 192:3 valuable 102:21 values 36:5,6 190:12 variability 60:21 63:2 65:2 variable 64:24 105:4 variation 65:22 varying 32:1 vast 123:12 162:4 venture 190:14 version 16:25 vertebrate 64:4 vessel 18:8 vessels 161:9,11 Vestas-v-136 118:3 vet 115:2 vet all 121:13 veteran 85:9 vetted 115:5 viable 23:23 vibrant 113:17 vibration 160:9 vicious 80:3 view 9:2 38:21 83:9 97:11 135:10 167:25 viewed 8:23 133:13 viewing 156:6 viewshed 161:21 Villa 128:1 Village 13:23 146:24 villages 48:3 Vineyard 107:23 violations 187:4,18 visibility 133:2 144:11 156:5 visible 133:5,7,10 144:10,21 vision 33:10 128:21 190:11 visual 144:9,16,17 154:15 156:13,21 visuals 109:6 vitality 77:6 VOICE 25:2 29:10,23 36:17 102:13 158:13, 15 voiced 90:5 Volturnus 171:5 volume 64:19 volunteer 90:7 91:18</p>
---	---	---	--	---

Transcript of Proceedings - July 19, 2018 **PUCO Hearing**

<p>volunteers 90:12, 23,24 vote 112:14 vulnerable 131:5</p> <hr/> <p align="center">W</p> <hr/> <p>Wade 95:2,4,9,11 Wagner 27:14 42:13 69:1 81:4 95:20 96:6, 22,25 151:24 153:19 wait 83:24 101:10 110:19 146:4 waiting 128:17 180:13 walkable 190:8 walking 194:5 wall 127:7 Walstra 5:16 36:18 84:19,23 85:3 89:1,7, 12 92:2,7 93:5,10 95:1,6 99:8,13,19 101:5,21 102:3,15 109:9,14 110:21 111:3,7 115:7 140:15, 19 143:3,8 146:17,22 150:3,9,14 156:2 157:4,16 166:15 170:9,14 172:8,19 174:15,20 175:15 wanted 44:5 113:22 135:4 136:3 Warbler 56:12 ward 47:11 49:25 wars 50:21 Wasilewski 150:5,7, 11,15,16 waste 21:16 watch 42:19 124:23 watched 90:24 watching 18:7 water 10:13 15:8,11, 12,13,14,15,18,25 16:1,3,23 17:3,4,6,8, 9,13,16,17 18:3,4,16, 17,19 19:21 20:4,20 21:6,19 22:5,6,25 23:3,4,6,7,9,10,18,20, 24,25 24:9,13,18,21 25:1 29:16 32:24 33:7 37:11 38:19 40:23,24 45:7 50:10 53:8 63:15 67:2,7 76:5,16 80:10, 18 83:18 87:6,12 88:18 91:23 94:7 100:5 116:16 117:8 129:21,23 132:6 133:8 136:25 137:1 138:6 149:3,10 155:15 159:13 168:4, 10 178:18 186:4,11, 25 187:6,21 188:3</p>	<p>watercraft 75:16 waterfowl 31:24 32:10 61:10 waterfront 147:2,18 waters 16:8 19:17 21:24 111:21 watersheds 20:18 waterways 75:15 127:15 Waugaman 5:24 wave 79:14 ways 100:10 weakest 79:21 weather 64:25 149:7 website 9:5 98:2,17 115:18 144:12 websites 124:12 week 79:9 weigh 162:23 weighed 72:23 73:21 welcomed 165:8 Welker 7:6,7 west 47:13,17 50:1 89:10 150:22,25 151:20 170:17 western 47:18 89:16 118:11 142:9 145:17 146:10 147:7 Westlake 66:16 74:18 Wetland 59:7 wetlands 187:5,11 whatnot 96:11 WHEREOF 195:9 whirling 82:18 whooshing 33:17, 21 wildfowl 32:23 wildlife 17:13 32:16 48:12 59:5,7 62:19 65:2 67:25 76:5 82:1 130:4 144:23 153:10 182:2,9 186:10 187:23 191:6 William 122:16 173:20 176:16 willingness 66:2 97:15 135:7 wind 8:11 9:24 10:2, 8,14 16:7,12,13,14, 18,24 17:2,6,11,14,20 18:2,6,25 19:16 21:11 22:18 23:5,18,22 31:2 32:18,21 33:22 34:19, 24 35:16,17,23 36:4 39:4,15,24 40:11,24 41:6,8,21 42:1,10 43:10 48:11 49:11,13 50:6,10,18 53:3,5,23 55:23 56:20,25 59:25 65:11 67:6,13,22</p>	<p>68:6,11 69:9,10,23 71:3,10,24,25 72:19 74:24,25 77:14 78:18 79:19 82:24 83:24 84:2,8,14 87:4,10 90:3 91:19 92:13,14, 17 93:3 94:20,23 100:18,19 102:21,23 103:4,5,6 105:10 106:14 107:21 108:1, 5 112:10,22 113:1 114:4 116:15,22 117:1,13 119:2,5 120:20,24 122:15,20, 23 123:1,12 124:11, 23 125:2,13,17,21 126:5,25 127:5 128:19,24 129:1 131:23 132:3,6 133:10 141:12,13,17, 22,24 142:3 143:15, 21,22 144:4 145:12, 14 147:12 148:12 149:23 150:1 151:8,9, 16,23 156:4,6,7,13, 15,22 158:1,7 159:14, 25 160:23 161:14 162:7,9,11,12,25 164:14,20,22,24,25 165:5,8,11,13,15 166:13 169:13,16,18 171:1,2 172:1 174:4, 13 176:10,12,15 177:7 178:16 179:17, 19 182:8 185:25 186:4 188:3,4,10 wind's 10:17 106:9 166:12 wind-powered 5:12 7:22 9:17 123:5 windmill 112:3 184:13 windmills 84:16 Windpower 5:10 6:14 27:6,17 39:3 54:1,18 78:23 80:21 85:16 88:5,24 112:4 124:22 151:24 154:23 Windpower's 84:10,16 winds 50:24 79:20 windsurfers 37:2 Windustrious 125:18 winter 128:12 155:13 wintering 52:23 53:9 wise 76:25 127:13 wishes 12:19 withdraw 58:5</p>	<p>witnesses 11:18 13:10 Witnessing 145:19 Wobbler 31:8 Wolfe 36:3 women 127:10 137:5,17 138:15 wonderful 122:24 135:24 189:25 190:7 words 103:13 work 14:20,21 54:19 85:22 91:15 106:17 108:21 137:2 138:15 139:19 161:9 165:18 173:9 179:23 187:3 192:19 worked 48:8 167:10, 13 172:2 worker 161:3 workers 86:3 87:19 88:20 132:21 137:20 161:7,8 workforce 88:2 working 48:17 125:19 139:3 185:2 193:3 works 181:24 world 15:24 17:3 20:19,20 23:20 39:16, 21 41:3 50:10 112:24 123:2 126:3 133:12 178:12 191:23 world's 15:8,13,15 16:1,23 worldwide 49:12 117:4 132:1 worries 124:2 worry 76:11 103:17 Worse 124:20 worst 131:3 worth 33:13 37:16 132:25 worthless 83:20 worthwhile 57:14 Wright 6:17 write 68:8 writing 69:25 148:10 written 11:11 25:23 26:9 28:1 46:10 52:15 85:5 92:23 134:4 wrong 119:8 190:24 wrote 156:3,16,17, 20 195:6 wunderkind 39:20</p> <hr/> <p align="center">Y</p> <hr/> <p>Yachting 175:2 year 10:12 26:23 27:3 32:19 45:15 47:24 53:12 56:11 60:16 61:24 73:1 86:23 90:20 100:7</p>	<p>117:11 120:21 131:16 162:10 187:1 year's 175:5 years 17:19 19:7 20:8,23 21:4,17 38:12 40:9 42:2 47:12 49:2 59:5,9 60:17,19,22 61:20 62:24 64:9 65:7,20 70:25 81:12 82:20 83:12 85:21 87:23 95:13 104:3 110:17 117:16,20 118:18 125:20 128:23 135:19 136:20 137:14 143:16 148:4 154:4 159:7 164:10 165:13 167:23 168:21 170:5 173:6 183:21 185:5, 23 186:16 187:16 189:8,17 191:18 Yingling 115:21,23 116:2,3,5 121:5,8,10 York 71:9,19 167:6 York's 71:1 72:19 young 21:21 145:23 172:14 Youngstown 136:19 youth 137:23</p> <hr/> <p align="center">Z</p> <hr/> <p>Zeng 172:13 Zeto 5:21 zone 22:21 42:4 46:25 47:2,6,10 118:8,10</p>
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