18-1607-EL-AG

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FILE March 4, 2019

The Ohio Power Siting Board 180 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 Re: Emerson Creek project (18-1607-EL-BGN)

To the members of the Ohio Power Siting Board:

The Emerson Creek Wind Farm project is a project that will benefit Ohio and support the OPSB's mission to support sound energy policy. This project will benefit Ohio citizens by providing an additional 300 MW source of renewable energy. It will promote the state's economic interests by making renewable energy – which is highly sought after by many large manufacturing and technology companies - available to families and businesses. Finally this project will serve to protect the environment by upholding the highest environmental standards during the construction and operating phases.

Further, this construction project will create hundreds of jobs during the initial construction phase, and would also create a number of full-time jobs after construction is completed. These are jobs that would give local families a paycheck, most of which would be spent right here in Northern Ohio.

The construction jobs from these types of projects are vitally important to the members of the Ironworkers Union Local 17 in Cleveland. Our members are highly trained professionals whose skillset and institutional oversight will ensure that the highest standards of quality and safety will be met. From the Golden Gate Bridge to the Stealth Fighter to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Key Tower, Ironworkers have been involved in most of the country's most important and most iconic building projects for the US and for Ohio. We would also like to be involved in a project as important as Emerson Creek.

But this project is not just about benefits for workers. Local schools would also benefit greatly from these projects. Based on the latest figures, Huron county schools alone are expected to receive over \$1 million in tax revenue from these projects. This revenue is needed to improve teacher pay, to maintain and improve facilities and to purchase new books, computers, etc.

In short, Emerson Creek Wind would provide huge benefits to our Union but also to the state of Ohio. I strongly support this project and I hope that the OPSB does the same.

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