

**From:** [Ohio Power Siting Board](#)  
**To:** [PucO Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 19-2148-GA-BLN [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0ShUDh:ref ]  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 11, 2020 4:29:58 PM


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I am the Economic Development Director for Champaign Co. I want to voice our concerns with the proposed Marysville Connector project. I understand will provide additional gas capacity to Marysville and southeast Union County which is good. However, this will not assist Champaign County where we are facing a dwindling natural gas supply and transmission. Champaign County is in the Columbia Gas and Vectren service area and there appears no plan to remedy the situation we find ourselves in. We are experiencing significant growth in our community and having the access to natural gas is vital. Since 2013, we have experiences growth and attraction of new development through executed agreement. We have commitment of nearly 200 jobs, retained and newly created payroll of \$134M and workforce of nearly 2500. Beyond these agreement other growth has occurred in this same timeframe with Parker Tru-tec, ORBIS, Rittal, Ohio Welding amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars invested, additional jobs created and retained.

Two agricultural businesses in our community were considering natural gas as their energy source. They have opted out of natural gas due to being cost prohibitive at this time (infrastructure). Recently, I have received 2 "no service" letter for vacant land on the northwest quadrant of Urbana as well as the southwestern quadrant of St. Paris. The owners of both properties desire to develop these areas into industrial land. I was unable to respond to JobsOhio RFI (site selection) due to the lack of natural gas services. We recently conducted a housing market study and will be actively pursuing residential development. The lack of natural gas may be a deterrent for developers to invest in our community that needs new housing to attract workforce to our area.

Champaign County is proactively planning for growth and yet our community is of the understanding that there is not sufficient natural gas capacity to support future expansion and attraction. The current Marysville Connector project does not take into consideration the growth west of Marysville. A long-term, comprehensive, regional natural gas solution is needed that includes Champaign, Logan and Union Counties.

Marcia Bailey

Champaign Economic Partnership 

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Summary: Public Comment of Marcia Bailey, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing