

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

To the members of the Ohio Power Siting Board:

I am writing this letter in support of the Emerson Creek wind project. Wind power has enormous potential to limit climate change, an issue that will impact all Ohio residents in some way, and soon!

With fluctuating prices, increasing unpredictable weather and foreign competition, farmers, especially small farmers, have been hard pressed to survive. In wind rich areas, revenue from leasing land for wind turbines adds a reliable income stream that makes it possible to keep the farm "in the family".

In the northwestern part of the state, Paulding County landowners were paid more than \$12 million by the Timber Road Wind Farm, and almost \$20 million was spent in a 50 mile radius around the farm. By diversifying our energy portfolio, we can drive the operating cost of agriculture down, allowing farmers to purchase more equipment, hire more farm hands, and ultimately, increase their yields.

Renewable energy jobs are expanding economic opportunities everywhere and Ohio needs to encourage investments that add to local incomes and tax bases. In predictions of the top 5 future jobs, solar installers and wind mechanics lead the list. Policies to encourage further development of renewables, like wind, will more than off-set recent losses in fossil-fuel employment.

I am one of many citizens who are very concerned about Climate Change. I wanted renewable-generated electricity for my home and researched the issue. Due to the Ohio Energy Choice program I was able to choose a 100% wind energy generation supplier. But I had to go out of state because Ohio has lagged behind nearby states in siting new wind projects. So, part of my utility payments now go to out-of-state companies for wind credits instead of staying in Ohio. And my rate for wind-generated electricity is even cheaper than fossil-fuel rates due to recent innovations in wind technology, like the Emerson Creek project.

Wind projects, like the Emerson Creek Project, will create a better Ohio for the next generation. Diversifying Ohio's energy supply makes good economic and environmental sense for Ohio.

Please approve Project 18-1607-EL-BGN.

Sincerely,



Margaret Branstrator
16 Meadow Circle
Oxford, Ohio 45056

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Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

5/1/2020 2:14:56 PM

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Case No(s). 18-1607-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment of Margaret Branstrator electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing