

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: comment 17-2295
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 8:09:49 AM

From: Paul Dvorak <pauldvorak2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: Testimony in support of the Emerson Creek wind farm

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

To the members of the Ohio Power Siting Board:

I am writing this letter **in support** of the Emerson Creek wind project.

The big reasons you should approve this wind project are the jobs it will generate for Ohioans, the significant payments it will make to local communities, and benefits to Ohio communities well beyond the wind farm's boundaries. Let me elaborate.

First, the jobs. The Emerson Creek Wind Farm would create about 150 construction jobs and 15 operation and maintenance jobs. A skilled labor force will be positively impacted by this Ohio Power Siting Board decision, along with the manufacturing industry that has been the backbone of our state for the last century. Many wind energy supply chain operators look to Ohio for its skilled labor force and its manufacturing capabilities.

Second, the economic support provided by Emerson Creek will greatly benefit our communities through these hard times. This is evident by the economic advantages counties with wind development have experienced. If approved, the project would provide \$51.3 million in landowner payments, \$54 million in school payments, \$27 million in county and township payments. For these communities, this money would also benefit roads, schools, first responders, and hospitals. How do you tell the people of Huron and Erie Counties they do not deserve any of this?

Lastly, I want to be a customer of clean, Ohio-generated power especially at this time

when the states' budget deficit looms at more than \$2.4 billion. In addition to the economic impacts of COVID-19, the deficit means a hiring freeze for all state jobs, cuts to Medicare, and budget cuts that impact our education system. While the actions our state's government will take to mitigate this deficit remain to be seen, one thing is certain: now is not the time to limit any investment by industry into our state and communities.

The best and brightest graduates from Ohio colleges will see how you treat its renewable-energy industry and then decide whether to stay in a backward state or move to where there is a more forward-thinking government. This is a critical moment for Ohio, and I implore you members of the Ohio Power Siting Board to approve this project and ensure a cleaner and brighter future for Ohio.

Thanks for reading,

Paul Dvorak

Strongsville, Ohio

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Summary: Public Comment of Paul Dvorak, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing