

From: [Butler, Matthew](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: comment for 20-1405-EL-BGN: Union Solar
Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 8:56:55 AM

First, let me say that I'm not against looking for "clean" sources of energy. What I am against, is the loss of thousands of acres of Ohio's farmable and prime land and the negative impact it will have on so many residents when there are clearly better areas to place these solar farms. Places where children don't play, where people don't raise livestock or grow their gardens. Places where the energy companies will have to invest in the infrastructure, rather than Ohio residents paying the price.

Here are some additional concerns:

- **So many residents are still unaware**
- **Everyone is treating us like this is a done deal**
- **Solar panels do emit electromagnetic radiations;** the energy company is quick to say that studies "do not link" any health concerns to the electromagnetic radiation emitted by solar panels. Yet, according to the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), EMFs are "possibly carcinogenic to humans."
- **There are so many other locations that make more sense for these projects, so why Union County, Ohio?;** These solar farms, for the most part, have been placed in areas where there's a high number of sunny days (and we know that isn't Ohio), and in areas where there aren't homes or farmed land. We keep getting the same basic answer: They want Union County land because our existing power infrastructure will save them millions of dollars. While that's great for them, I implore you to look at what it will cost our rural farming community. This isn't right. If it's believed these solar farms have merit, locate them in areas where loyal Ohio residents and farmers don't pay the price for the remainder of their lifetimes (these are 20-30-year lease agreements). **The land in Washington and York Township has a high productivity, versatility and resilience (PVR value). It's prime farmland.**
- **No one seems to care about affected homeowners or their property values;** Officials are referring us back to the energy company for information. But whose interests do you they think the energy companies are protecting? The energy companies simply say, "No studies show that your property value will be adversely affected." Of course, there aren't any studies that show it won't be either. Any studies I've been able to find involve solar panels affixed to a home's rooftop, not acre upon acre of surrounding panel fields.

- **There's no benefit to the residents and farmers paying the price for these solar panel farms;** Tax money generated tends to stay in the city. And the energy? It won't even benefit Union County. It will be used to power others in cities far away. The energy company also likes to highlight that their project will create jobs. However, when questions, can only say that about 15 long-term employees will be needed. That's so few jobs for displacing so many potential farmers and for ruining our land. Why are okay with Ohio making all of the sacrifices?
- **Many projects of this kind haven't succeeded;** While we understand the energy companies are expected to submit cleanup plans to the OPSB, if they go bankrupt (which many have), they will not be held responsible. The remaining landowners likely won't have the means for a cleanup of that magnitude.
- **Solar panels emit noise and create glare;** the energy company is downplaying the noise issue and says that, while the inverters do generate noise, it won't be audible outside of the project area. But what if the project area is 200-feet or less from your home on every side? What if the panels are just 200-ft from where your grandchildren are playing?
- **And so many other reasons;** wildlife (our ecosystem), traffic, watershed, construction stormwater and runoff issues, impact to local roads, added fire risk, no data on effects on rainfall and vegetation on neighboring properties.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my opinion and concerns. I'd sure have renewed faith in our governing bodies if this was stopped and our community's best interests were put first.

Thanks,

KARRIE HOOVER

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

10/6/2020 9:25:58 AM

in

Case No(s). 20-1405-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment Testimony of Karrie Hoover electronically filed by Docketing Staff
on behalf of Docketing