

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** comment for Case No. 20-1405-EL-BGN  
**Date:** Friday, June 4, 2021 9:46:59 AM

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To: Ohio Power Siting Board

Subj: Case Number 20-1405-EL-BGN

We are owners of farmland in Washington Township and have signed up to participate in the Union Solar project. Rebecca was raised in Byhalia and her family has lived and farmed in Washington Township since the 1820s. We are writing to support the approval of case number 20-1405-EL-BGN, Union Solar. This project offers a number of features which will be good for the environment and good for the community as well as being good for the landowners.

Generation of electricity without adding to carbon dioxide levels is clearly in our future and solar power provides the cleanest least obtrusive method to accomplish this goal. Whether one does or does not feel that we are in a climate emergency it is clear that being able to generate electricity cleanly and efficiently is an important development. While it might seem that a lot of land is being taken out of production only about 1% of the available land in Union County is to be used for this project. Economies of scale are a critical feature of this type of facility, and it is necessary that a solar generation plant be of a certain minimum size.

The plan for the land where the solar farm will be constructed is to sow grasses between the panels. These grasses will be mowed thus adding nutrients to the soil. It has also been suggested that it might be possible to graze sheep on the land as well. This would make the land more productive and would add additional natural fertilizer. At the end of the thirty-year life of the solar farm the soil will be considerably richer than it is now.

This is an area without much industry. Public services are therefore funded by property taxes and local income taxes. The solar farm will produce considerably higher property taxes as land is transferred from agricultural use to non-agricultural purposes. This increased tax revenue will be largely fed into the local school system, bringing an important benefit to the community without raising local property taxes. In addition, the project will employ a large number of local people during construction and will create an additional fifteen or so permanent jobs once operation has started.

There have been some objections to this project made by a few local residents. It is important to remember that the owners of this land (or their ancestors) purchased it for the purpose of earning a living and supporting their families. As economic conditions change farmers will change the types of agricultural products they produce. Owning farmland is not a hobby and farmers don't raise crops to provide pleasant scenery for their neighbors. They will use their land in a manner that, consistent with local zoning laws, maximizes their income. If landowners are unable to participate in this project, they might decide to make a change in the type of farming they have been doing. The people objecting to this project might find a field of solar panels a lot less objectionable to a field full of hogs or chickens.

In conclusion, the land in question is owned by local farmers not by the community. If landowners find it advantageous to move from harvesting corn to harvesting sunlight it is clearly their right to do so.

We strongly support the approval of this project.

Douglas S. Corner  
Rebecca Lingrel Corner

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**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**6/4/2021 10:11:08 AM**

**in**

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

Summary: Public Comment of Douglas Corner via website electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing