

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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In the Matter of the :
Application of Clearview :
Solar I, LLC, for a :
Certificate of : Case No. 20-1362-EL-BGN
Environmental :
Compatibility and Public :
Need. :

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PROCEEDINGS

before Mr. David Hicks, Administrative Law Judge, at
the Ohio Power Siting Board, via Webex called at 6:00
p.m. on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

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- - -

APPEARANCES:

Dickinson Wright PLLC
By Ms. Christine M.T. Pirik,
Mr. William V. Vorys
and Mr. Matthew McDonnell
150 East Gay Street, Suite 2400
Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of the Applicant.

Champaign County Prosecutor's Office
By Ms. Jane A. Napier,
Assistant Prosecutor
200 North Main Street
Urbana, Ohio 43078

On behalf of the Champaign County Board
of Commissioners.

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Tuesday Evening Session,
June 8, 2021.

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ALJ HICKS: Good evening, everyone. As
Matt just said, my name is David Hicks and I'm the
Administrative Law Judge in the Legal Department of
the Ohio Power Siting Board and I have been assigned
by the Board to this proceeding which is Case No.
20-1362-EL-BGN.

One of my duties as the assigned
Administrative Law Judge is conducting a public
hearing in this case which involves the application
filed by Clearview Solar I, LLC, for a certificate to
construct a solar-powered electric generation
facility in Champaign County, Ohio.

A couple preliminary matters before we
get started. Due to the COVID-19 emergency that was
in effect at the time of scheduling for this public
hearing, tonight's hearing is being held -- being
held via Webex which enables interested persons to
offer testimony on the proposed project by telephone
or video via the internet, and the hearing is also
being live streamed at the PUCO's YouTube channel
which can be found at [youtube.com/user/pucohio](https://www.youtube.com/user/pucohio).

Again, just a few preliminary issues

1 before we get into the formal testimony here. If you
 2 experience any sort of technical difficulties during
 3 the hearing, you have a couple of options to try and
 4 address that. If the internet connection drops, you
 5 can try and join Webex again if you are in now, get
 6 back in via video. Or you could also participate via
 7 phone, and you could do that by dialing
 8 1-408-418-9388 and entering Meeting No. 1291905313.
 9 If you don't have any luck with any of those options,
 10 you can try and call our -- the Board's Legal
 11 Department at (614) 466-6843 and someone there can
 12 try and help you out.

13 More information on Webex technical help,
 14 there is a chat function in Webex that you could use
 15 to try to obtain some technical assistance. Just be
 16 aware that the chat function shouldn't be used for
 17 offering comments or anything along those lines.
 18 It's just for assistance or procedural questions.
 19 The chats are recorded, and while they are not part
 20 of the official record, they also shouldn't be
 21 considered any type -- any type of private messaging
 22 or chat within -- within Webex.

23 So as indicated by the entry of March 15,
 24 2021, witnesses were asked to register to testify in
 25 this case. Individuals who have registered to

1 provide testimony should be ready to speak when we
2 read their name in the registration list.

3 Individuals who are commenting by video in Webex will
4 be unmuted and promoted to a panelist's position by
5 our Board Staff when it is their turn to testify. If
6 you are providing testimony by telephone, a Board
7 Staff member will call you at the phone number you
8 provided when you registered when it is your turn to
9 testify.

10 With all that in mind, we just ask
11 everyone please bear with us a little bit. There
12 could be just some natural lag or transition time as
13 we move from one witness to the other. So if that
14 occurs, we will just try to keep things moving along
15 as quickly as we can.

16 Also consistent with that entry of March
17 5, 2021, we would ask that witnesses try and keep
18 their testimony to about 5 minutes in length and
19 avoid repetitive comments. Also to avoid any
20 unnecessary background noise, we would ask that all
21 participants keep their microphones on mute unless
22 they are commenting or waiting to respond to
23 something. It will just help everyone else that's
24 listening to the proceeding. And again, if you have
25 questions that pop up as we go, use any of those

1 options that I laid out earlier or use the chat
2 function with Webex.

3 And so with that before moving on into
4 the official portion of the proceeding, I will see if
5 there is any questions from anyone or if anyone nods
6 or waves or tries to get my attention; or, otherwise,
7 we will keep on going.

8 I'm not seeing anyone waving their arm or
9 raising their hand, so on we go. Again, the Ohio
10 Power Siting Board has scheduled for hearing at this
11 time and place Case No. 20-1362-EL-BGN which is
12 captioned in the Matter of the Application of
13 Clearview Solar I, LLC, for a Certificate of
14 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

15 As already mentioned, I am David Hicks,
16 the Administrative Law Judge assigned to hear this
17 case and conducting tonight's hearing. I will also
18 note there are some other Staff members from the
19 Board assisting with various aspects of the hearing
20 that are overseeing the event in Webex and YouTube
21 and will be assisting us as we go.

22 And so at this time I think we will go
23 ahead and take appearances by counsel of the parties
24 in the case, and we'll start with the Applicant.

25 MS. PIRIK: Thank you, your Honor. On

1 behalf of Clearview Solar I, LLC, the law firm of
2 Dickinson Wright by Christine Pirik, Will Vorys, and
3 Matt McDonnell, 150 East Gay Street, Suite 2400,
4 Columbus, Ohio 43215.

5 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

6 On behalf of Board Staff. I don't
7 believe are on but open it up.

8 We also had two parties file motions or
9 notices of intervention. The first of those being
10 the Champaign County Board of Commissioners.

11 MS. NAPIER: Yes. Jane Napier, Assistant
12 Prosecutor, with the Champaign Prosecuting Attorney's
13 Office for the Champaign County Board of
14 Commissioners.

15 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

16 And the other party that filed motion for
17 intervention is the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. I
18 believe they also are not on.

19 I will just note that while counsel for
20 Board Staff and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation may
21 not be participating this evening, there may be other
22 non-counsel representatives of these entities that
23 are attending or observing the hearing as we proceed.

24 The subject of tonight's hearing is an
25 application filed by Clearview Solar I, LLC, for the

1 purpose of developing, constructing, and operating an
 2 up to 144-megawatt solar-powered electric generation
 3 facility in Adams Township, Champaign County, Ohio.
 4 Clearview Solar's application was filed on
 5 December 18, 2020. On May 24, 2021, Board Staff
 6 filed a Report of Investigation. This report is a
 7 recommendation from the Board Staff but does not
 8 necessarily reflect what the Board's final
 9 determination in this case will be.

10 The purpose of tonight's public hearing
 11 is to receive testimony regarding Clearview Solar's
 12 application from entities and persons in the local
 13 community who are affected by the proposed project
 14 but who are not parties to the case.

15 I will note that the public hearing is
 16 not a question and answer session but is an
 17 opportunity to let the Board know what you as a
 18 witness think about the proposed project. Tonight's
 19 public hearing is also only one aspect of the process
 20 in this case. An evidentiary hearing has been
 21 scheduled for July 1, 2021, and the purpose of that
 22 evidentiary hearing is for the parties in this case
 23 including the Applicant, any Intervenor, and Board
 24 Staff to provide testimony and other evidence
 25 regarding the project.

1 Tonight's hearing is being transcribed by
2 a court reporter, Karen from Armstrong & Okey. For
3 those that plan to testify, just keep this in mind.
4 Speak clearly so that the court reporter can
5 accurately reflect your comments on the record and
6 just be sure to verbally respond to all questions
7 that are asked of you so that your answers can be
8 properly transcribed.

9 After I finish with this introduction,
10 which I promise I am close to finishing, I will begin
11 calling individuals on the registration list to
12 testify about the proposed project. Each person who
13 is registered to testify will be permitted to speak
14 once about the project. We will ask you to take an
15 oath or an affirmation that you are about -- that
16 what you are about to say is the truth. Your
17 testimony will then be considered as part of the
18 official record in this case, and it will be reviewed
19 by the Board before a final decision is made on the
20 application.

21 Additionally, counsel for the parties in
22 this case as well as myself will be permitted to ask
23 you questions about your testimony. In the event you
24 should decide you do not want to testify when your
25 name is called from the registration list, you can

1 pass, and we will move on to the next witness. Once
2 you have finished testifying or for others that are
3 here merely as observers, you are free to leave the
4 hearing at any time you wish.

5 If individuals wish to supplement their
6 testimony with an exhibit for the Board's
7 consideration, a copy of the document along with a
8 reference to the case number which, once again, is
9 20-1362-EL-BGN must be provided by the Board -- to
10 the Board no later than June 15, 2021, and you can
11 e-mail that to contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov, or you can
12 mail that to the Ohio Power Siting Board, 180 East
13 Broad Street, Attention Docketing Division, Columbus,
14 Ohio 43215.

15 For anyone that is not testifying tonight
16 but who might wish to file a public comment regarding
17 the proposed project, you can do so in writing. A
18 couple of options. You can go to the Board's website
19 and enter the case number in the case search and
20 enter a comment via the website. You could also
21 e-mail the comment to contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov. Or
22 again, you can mail it to the Ohio Power Siting Board
23 at 180 East Broad Street, Attention Docketing
24 Division, Columbus, Ohio 43215 and, once again, just
25 ask that any written comments reference the case

1 number to this case.

2 Again, we appreciate everyone that is and
3 will be participating tonight and hope that everyone
4 that's registered to testify will have the
5 opportunity to do so.

6 And so with that, I think we are going to
7 go ahead, begin with our testimony and call our first
8 witness which I believe is Mike Pullins. So if -- I
9 believe he is on Webex. If he could be promoted.

10 MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Pullins, you've been
11 promoted. If you can enable your audio and video.

12 ALJ HICKS: Mr. Pullins.

13 MR. M. PULLINS: Can you hear me now?

14 ALJ HICKS: I can.

15 MR. M. PULLINS: I'm not sure that the
16 video is working, but I've got -- I will try the
17 camera.

18 ALJ HICKS: Okay.

19 MR. M. PULLINS: There it is if you can
20 see it also.

21 ALJ HICKS: I can hear you, but I cannot
22 see you.

23 MR. M. PULLINS: Okay.

24 ALJ HICKS: We can proceed if -- I mean,
25 folks will be testifying via phone, if you would

1 prefer to just proceed as is, or we can try and get
2 the camera working.

3 MR. M. PULLINS: No. Can you still hear
4 me?

5 ALJ HICKS: Yes.

6 MR. M. PULLINS: Okay. Let me go ahead
7 and -- and not take up anybody else's time here. My
8 name is Mike Pullins.

9 ALJ HICKS: Mr. Pullins, let me just
10 swear you in real fast.

11 MR. M. PULLINS: Okay.

12 ALJ HICKS: If you could -- I know it
13 sounds funny via phone. If you could raise your
14 right hand and let me know when you have done so.

15 MR. M. PULLINS: I have.

16 ALJ HICKS: Okay.

17 (Witness sworn.)

18 ALJ HICKS: Okay. If you could just
19 state and spell your name for the record.

20 MR. M. PULLINS: My name is Mike Pullins,
21 M-I-K-E P-U-L-L-I-N-S.

22 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And could you provide
23 your address, please.

24 MR. M. PULLINS: And I live at 587 South
25 Ludlow Road, Urbana, Ohio with my wife Cathy.

1 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And do you reside or
2 work within the project area?

3 MR. M. PULLINS: I have a farm with my
4 wife in the project area that has been committed to
5 the project, and I grew up in the project area and
6 have several family members who still live in the
7 project area.

8 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Well, I thank you, and
9 you are free to proceed with your testimony.

10 MR. M. PULLINS: Thank you. I do
11 appreciate the opportunity to testify in this virtual
12 public hearing. My wife Cathy and I are landowners
13 in the project. I did grow up in the project area.

14 After having spent over a year working
15 with Open Road Renewables, legal counsel, and most of
16 the other landowners in the project to make sure it
17 was good for us, good for our neighbors, and our
18 community, we have submitted our farm to the
19 Clearview Solar project.

20 My wife and I have been farming for over
21 40 years. I retired from the Ohio Farm Bureau a few
22 years ago after 33 years. My wife retired from early
23 childhood education a few years ago working here in
24 Champaign County.

25 Our farm on Snapptown Road is part of the

1 project, was purchased in about 1978 just prior to
2 the farm economic crisis of the '80s. I do know
3 through the experience in the '80s that benefits of
4 off-farm jobs which my wife and I have had other
5 income diversification that is employed by a majority
6 of farmers today who are building a farm operation.

7 My two sons are also involved in our farm
8 operation and have a significant operation producing
9 corn, soybeans, in addition to diversified production
10 with raspberries and peaches. Diversification has
11 been part of our business model. And it assures our
12 operation as steady income year after year while our
13 agricultural crops are impacted by weather, market
14 forces, trade, and many other unpredictable and
15 governmental and regulatory events.

16 Also, in 2015, we invested in a
17 74-kilowatt solar array to power our farm at Mutual,
18 and so we do have experience with solar energy
19 production. That with over 80 panels provides over
20 70 percent of our farm power needs and after six
21 years has paid back the initial investment and will
22 provide us free or low cost electricity for the next
23 25 to 30 years. We get many comments and -- from the
24 thousands of berry pickers that visit our farm and
25 we've had no complaints from our other neighbors and

1 it is located in the Village of Mutual.

2 Today renewable energy stands on its own.
 3 It's the cheapest form of new power generation. I've
 4 made significant renewable energy investments over
 5 the years, and the returns on these investments have
 6 exceeded my other traditional investments. Our
 7 philosophy and business model is that we are business
 8 people who farm. Diversifying our income beyond
 9 crops helps protect our farm. We did not rush into
 10 anything, and we did do our due diligence on this
 11 project and other investments that we've made.

12 Also what is rarely shared but something
 13 everyone -- solar projects leave the land in a better
 14 place than pre-construction, higher organic matter,
 15 better till. There is little to no long-term impact.
 16 In fact, 30 years in solar is very similar to a
 17 USDA's Conservation Reserve Program which I also have
 18 some acres in.

19 So out of our 1,400 acres, some we lease,
 20 some we operate, some is in CRP, and now 100 acres
 21 will be diversified in the solar. This is true
 22 agricultural diversification. Solar helps to protect
 23 my family, my farm, the future of our kids and
 24 grandkids.

25 Solar also brings economic strength and

1 stability to Champaign County and Ohio through an
2 increased tax base and jobs. When residents ask what
3 they receive from this project, I point out that
4 1.2 million in tax revenues per year that provides
5 for, and again, every resident lower property taxes,
6 better schools, better local services, more jobs, and
7 higher property values. Everyone in the community
8 does. If not directly, indirectly they benefit from
9 this project.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to share
11 our support for Clearview Solar.

12 ALJ HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Pullins.

13 I will open it up to see if there are any
14 questions for this witness from Ms. Pirik or
15 Ms. Napier.

16 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

17 MS. NAPIER: I just had one question,
18 your Honor. Mr. Pullins, how many of your acres are
19 committed to this project?

20 MR. M. PULLINS: 100.

21 MS. NAPIER: Thank you.

22 ALJ HICKS: Okay. I have no -- no
23 further questions, Mr. Pullins. I want to thank you
24 for your testimony and you are -- you will be put
25 back as an attendee and you are free to go or

1 continue to observe the hearing.

2 MR. M. PULLINS: Thank you.

3 ALJ HICKS: Thank you. I believe our
4 next witness is James Pullins.

5 MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Pullins, you've been
6 promoted. If you can enable your audio and video.

7 MR. J. PULLINS: I'm just going to enable
8 audio, if that's okay.

9 ALJ HICKS: Sure.

10 MR. J. PULLINS: Great.

11 ALJ HICKS: Well, I will do the same as
12 the previous. If you could raise your right hand and
13 let me know when you have done so.

14 MR. J. PULLINS: I have done so.

15 (Witness sworn.)

16 ALJ HICKS: Okay. If you could state and
17 spell your name for the record.

18 MR. J. PULLINS: My name is James Kenton
19 Pullins. I go by Kent. And that's J-A-M-E-S
20 K-E-N-T-O-N P-U-L-L-I-N-S.

21 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please
22 provide your address.

23 MR. J. PULLINS: 7535 Juler, J-U-L-E-R,
24 Avenue, and that's in Madeira, Ohio 45243.

25 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And do you reside or

1 work within the project area?

2 MR. J. PULLINS: I'm a landowner within
3 the project area.

4 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please proceed with
5 your testimony.

6 MR. J. PULLINS: Yeah. Before proceeding
7 I do want to point out that there is another James
8 Pullins that lives nearby, so I'm James Kenton
9 Pullins, not James Paul Pullins who is a relative of
10 mine just for those in the community that are
11 following along so.

12 All right. I first want to compliment
13 the Power Siting Board on the -- on the format for
14 this. I think the virtual hearing is a great way to
15 reach out to a diverse population and appreciate the
16 opportunity to speak with you in this simple and
17 accessible format. I really hope this format
18 continues for future hearings even as the emergencies
19 from the pandemic is now fading so thank you.

20 My principal occupation is as materials
21 engineer working with composites and additive
22 manufacturing in the aerospace industry. Along with
23 that my wife and I are also landowners within the
24 project area. That land that I own is -- is part of
25 a family farm occupation -- I'm sorry, part of a

1 family farm operation consisting of row crops and
2 specialty crops.

3 Our family farm has been part of the
4 Adams Township community within the project area
5 since the 1950s. Currently there is three
6 generations of our family that own farmland within
7 this project area. There is my -- my grandparents
8 and my father, who you just heard from, and as well
9 as my wife and I.

10 And for my wife and I, we took the time
11 and with significant input from family and counsel to
12 make decisions as to whether or not to participate
13 with -- in Clearview I, and we are proud to
14 participate or plan to participate in Clearview I for
15 the following reasons: We expect that this project
16 will enhance the community as the tax revenues that
17 are generated from this project are significantly
18 higher than the revenues that would be generated
19 through the CAUV program.

20 According to the University of Cincinnati
21 study, Clearview Solar will contribute an additional
22 \$1.2 million to our local government including
23 \$500,000 that would go to Graham Local Schools and
24 that would be on an annual basis, so every year an
25 additional payment to Graham Local Schools of

1 \$500,000 which is significant.

2 And it's also worth pointing out that
3 there's limited options for accessing additional
4 revenues of that size outside of getting that from
5 taxpayers and raising levies. So this is a great way
6 for schools to access additional funding without
7 requiring new taxation.

8 And along with our schools, these
9 revenues go to Champaign County and other entities
10 including Adams Township, our 911, fire, EMS, JVS,
11 our mental health programs, our librainies, our
12 senior programs, our Children Services, our health
13 district, our roads, and over \$90,000 annually to the
14 developmental disabilities programs.

15 Clearview Solar will create a significant
16 number of jobs during construction. There will be
17 long-term operational jobs and local manufacturing
18 and fabricating opportunities as part of this
19 project. And I am proud to say our farm and the
20 farms within the project have an opportunity to bring
21 this sustainability and recurring revenue to our
22 community.

23 Thank you for the opportunity to share
24 our support for Clearview Solar.

25 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

1 I will open it up to see if there are any
2 questions from either Ms. Pirik or Ms. Napier.

3 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

4 ALJ HICKS: Ms. Napier, I believe you're
5 muted.

6 MS. NAPIER: Can you hear me now?

7 ALJ HICKS: I can hear you.

8 MS. NAPIER: Thank you. Mr. Pullins, you
9 had indicated you're from Madeira, Ohio. That is not
10 in Champaign County, correct?

11 MR. J. PULLINS: That's correct.
12 Currently -- currently live in Hamilton County,
13 landowner within Adams Township, and grew up in Union
14 Township of Champaign County. Yeah.

15 MS. NAPIER: And your father just
16 testified, I believe. He had indicated that -- that
17 of his acreage he committed 100 acres to this
18 project. Do you have any additional acreage, or is
19 that commonly owned with your father and mother?

20 MR. J. PULLINS: The property that I am
21 referring to is owned exclusively by my wife and I.

22 MS. NAPIER: Okay. And how many acres?

23 MR. J. PULLINS: It's an 83 acres
24 property.

25 MS. NAPIER: I'm sorry. I was talking

1 over you. Can you repeat that?

2 MR. J. PULLINS: It's an 83-acre
3 property. And it is -- it's not currently under
4 lease. We are considering that lease and planning to
5 lease it.

6 MS. NAPIER: So it's not -- the 83 acres
7 is not a part of this project?

8 MR. J. PULLINS: It will be, yes.

9 MS. NAPIER: Okay. So as of now, what do
10 you have committed to this project yourself?

11 MR. J. PULLINS: We -- we are in -- we
12 are in plans and talks for that.

13 MS. NAPIER: Okay. So at least of the --
14 there is a map upon application. That property, or
15 at least your property, will not be included in that
16 map.

17 MR. J. PULLINS: It is.

18 MS. NAPIER: Oh, it is. It is, but it
19 hasn't been committed as of yet; is that what you're
20 saying?

21 MR. J. PULLINS: Yes, correct.

22 MS. NAPIER: Thank you. I have no
23 further questions.

24 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

25 Mr. Pullins, I want to thank you for the

1 testimony, and you are now free to continue observing
2 or drop off as you wish. Thanks.

3 I believe our next witness on the list is
4 Nathan Persinger, and I've been notified that we've
5 not -- our staff has not been able to connect with
6 him just yet, so we will move to the next witness on
7 our list, and if we can get in touch with
8 Mr. Persinger or if he calls back in to Staff, we
9 will circle back to allow him to provide testimony.
10 So we will move on to the next witness on the list
11 which is Lyn Davidson, and I believe she is on via
12 Webex.

13 MR. SCHMIDT: Ms. Davidson is connected
14 via Webex, but because of the method that she used I
15 can't promote her. So what I've done is unmuted her
16 from the attendee list. Ms. Davidson, if you could
17 say something and make sure we can hear you.

18 MR. LYN DAVIDSON: Hello. Can you hear
19 me?

20 ALJ HICKS: I can hear you.

21 MR. LYN DAVIDSON: I'm Mr. Lyn Davidson,
22 not Ms.

23 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Noted and apologies.

24 MR. LYN DAVIDSON: That's fine.

25 ALJ HICKS: If you could, as the other

1 witnesses, raise your right hand and let me know when
2 you have done so.

3 MR. LYN DAVIDSON: I've done so.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please state
6 and spell your name for the record.

7 MR. LYN DAVIDSON: Lyn Davidson, first
8 name is L-Y-N, Davidson last name, D-A-V-I-D-S-O-N.

9 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And could you please
10 provide your address.

11 MR. LYN DAVIDSON: 508 South Carlisle
12 Street, Quincy, Ohio.

13 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Do you reside or work
14 within the project area?

15 MR. LYN DAVIDSON: Reside about a mile
16 and a quarter from the project and we farm all the
17 way around the project including inside the project.

18 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please proceed with
19 your testimony.

20 MR. LYN DAVIDSON: Okay. Good evening.
21 My name is Lyn Davidson. I'm with Davidson Farms
22 located in Quincy, Ohio. We have a good size on
23 mound acreage involved in the proposed Clearview
24 solar farm project.

25 I've heard a couple things over the years

1 and both seem to be true. One, most of the farm
2 ground around you will be sold and leased once in
3 your lifetime, and the same sign would be a diverse
4 use of land opportunity may also come up -- come to
5 your way once in a lifetime.

6 For the most part this has been true. I
7 bought my first farm in 1994, and we bought several
8 parcels since then. The previous owners also
9 believed in diversifying their farming operations
10 when they signed agreements with oil companies to
11 test drill for possible oil and gas in the same
12 fields. This happened back in late 1970s, early
13 1980s. Now, that didn't work out for them. They
14 didn't find the amount of gas to set wells.

15 A couple years ago we were approached by
16 Open Roads about the possibility of a solar farm on
17 some of our land. We were and still are excited
18 about the opportunity to add another entity to our
19 operation. We currently run a dairy farm with
20 bulkheads with dairy steers, run a large grain
21 operation, and trucking business.

22 Not all of these entities are profitable
23 in any given year, but based on the weather,
24 commodity prices, tariffs, workmen, all other weather
25 issues, the solar project would give us the fixed

1 income from the acreage involved for the next 30
2 years plus.

3 A few benefits that we like about the
4 solar farms, all the ground will be covered with
5 cover crop for year round. This does a couple
6 things. It helps prevent water and wind erosion. It
7 also helps build the soil structure like no till does
8 and leave vegetation above the ground and below
9 ground both which after decays will help build up the
10 organic matter, and it also increases the soil water
11 holding capacity.

12 Another benefit to this project is it's
13 amount of tax revenue generated -- generated in this
14 project is estimated to be about \$1.2 million
15 annually which a couple other people already talked
16 about how it will benefit the schools, County, and
17 Adams Township. It would be a large increase in the
18 acreage involved than what it currently is in CAUV
19 tax acreages.

20 After completing the project in 40 years'
21 life span, the solar farm will be decommissioned, and
22 the land will be turned back to productive farmland
23 as it is now, possibly even better after the cover
24 crops have been on there for 40 years.

25 As far as the community goes, the

1 community will benefit from the solar farms as well.
 2 They plan to hire people from the area to help with
 3 construction and also maintain the equipment and the
 4 area grounds during the project's lifetime. And some
 5 of the local businesses may also benefit from this as
 6 far as restaurants serving lunch for the employees
 7 working in the area, hotels for the people housing
 8 people that live out of town.

9 Thank you for allowing me to give
 10 testimony for this project and thank you for your
 11 support for this project.

12 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

13 I guess we'll first ask Ms. Pirik. Any
 14 questions for the witness?

15 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

16 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Ms. Napier, any
 17 questions for the witness?

18 MS. NAPIER: Just I think one. And it's
 19 just I didn't quite hear the beginning of your
 20 testimony, Mr. Davidson. Do you own property, or you
 21 are just farming property for someone else in the
 22 project area?

23 MR. LYN DAVIDSON: We own property in the
 24 project area.

25 MS. NAPIER: And how many acres do you

1 have committed to the project?

2 MR. LYN DAVIDSON: Between me and my
3 brother and my sister approximately 345 acres.

4 MS. NAPIER: And this might be a strange
5 question, but since the previous gentleman seemed to
6 say he was in the process, have you committed to
7 that, or are you in the process of committing to
8 that?

9 MR. LYN DAVIDSON: We've committed to
10 that up to two years ago.

11 MS. NAPIER: Okay. Thank you. I have no
12 further questions.

13 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Thank you.

14 Mr. Davidson, we thank you for your
15 testimony, and you are free to go.

16 MR. LYN DAVIDSON: All right. Thank you.

17 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

18 Our next witness on the list is Lee
19 Davidson.

20 MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Davidson, you've been
21 promoted. If you can enable your audio and video.

22 MR. LEE DAVIDSON: Can you hear me?

23 ALJ HICKS: I can hear you. I cannot see
24 you, but I don't know if you are using the video or
25 just testifying via phone.

1 MR. LEE DAVIDSON: I'm testifying
2 computer. I am not via phone.

3 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Do you want to try to
4 get the camera to work, or would you prefer to just
5 testify without it?

6 MR. LEE DAVIDSON: Just testify without
7 it.

8 ALJ HICKS: Okay. If you could raise
9 your right hand and let me know when you have done
10 so.

11 MR. LEE DAVIDSON: I have.

12 ALJ HICKS: Okay.

13 (Witness sworn.)

14 ALJ HICKS: Okay. If you could please
15 state and spell your name for the record.

16 MR. LEE DAVIDSON: Lee Davidson, first
17 name L-E-E, last name D-A-V-I-D-S-O-N.

18 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please
19 provide your address.

20 MR. LEE DAVIDSON: 2281 County Road 255,
21 Quincy, Ohio.

22 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And do you reside or
23 work within the project area?

24 MR. LEE DAVIDSON: I live about 2 miles
25 away, and I work in the project area.

1 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead with
2 your testimony.

3 MR. LEE DAVIDSON: My reasons for joining
4 in the solar project was long-term income guarantee
5 without me depending on the weather and commodity
6 prices.

7 Another reason we won't be paying real
8 estate taxes on the property, that Clearview pays all
9 the real estate taxes and it will be \$1.2 million.

10 Other benefits for the project, the soil
11 will be rested for 35 to 40 years, and farms that we
12 have had in CRP program for 20 years are phenomenal
13 when they come back out into production, so this
14 ground will be rested and just growing grass for 35,
15 40 years. When it comes back into production, it
16 will be a lot more productive than it is now.

17 And then it will have ground cover on it
18 year round so there won't be -- very little, if any,
19 erosion. And agriculture there is always noise and
20 dust and pesticides and herbicides we use. Well, in
21 the solar project there won't be any noise from
22 equipment, the dust from equipment. There won't be
23 any pesticides or herbicides used in the area.

24 A couple concerns I had when we started
25 the project was subsurface drainage tile, damaging

1 those when they tried piling in the ground. We
 2 have -- our fields have all been tiled every 30 feet,
 3 but we have maps, and they are working with us to try
 4 to keep the damage to tile to a minimum. And if
 5 there is damage, they will go back in and repair
 6 them. The older clay that aren't mapped, they are
 7 going to probably replace them before they put solar
 8 panels up so they won't be damaging those.

9 And another concern I had was at the end
 10 of the project if -- to make sure that -- I don't
 11 know, like they didn't go bankrupt or something and
 12 leave, but they are bonded to have the project
 13 dismantled at the end of it. But even if they
 14 weren't, aluminum and steel and glass from it would
 15 more than pay for to have the project removed from
 16 the property. And once it was removed there is very
 17 little, if anything, buried in the ground, so it
 18 would be back to farming like it was before, if not
 19 better.

20 And I have -- my brother and sister have
 21 been -- my interest alone is 211 acres, half interest
 22 with my brother and he has some other ground, and my
 23 sister has some other ground which all comes to
 24 345 acres all together in the project.

25 And I would like to thank you for the

1 opportunity to testify on this and that's all I have.

2 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Thank you,
3 Mr. Davidson. I will open it to Ms. Pirik if she has
4 any questions.

5 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

6 ALJ HICKS: And, Ms. Napier, if you have
7 any questions.

8 MS. NAPIER: No.

9 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

10 Thank you again Mr. Davidson for
11 testifying and you are free to go.

12 MR. LEE DAVIDSON: You're welcome.

13 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Our next witness on
14 the list is Bill Sidders. I believe we have him on
15 the phone.

16 MR. BUTLER: Yes, your Honor. This is
17 Matt Butler with the Power Siting Board Staff. I
18 have Mr. Sidders here on the phone.

19 ALJ HICKS: Mr. Sidders.

20 MR. SIDDEERS: Hello.

21 ALJ HICKS: Hello?

22 MR. SIDDEERS: Hello?

23 ALJ HICKS: Can you hear us?

24 MR. SIDDEERS: Hello?

25 ALJ HICKS: I'm hearing some de --

1 Mr. Sidders, can you hear us?

2 MR. SIDDER: You're not coming through
3 very loud. Am I coming through okay?

4 ALJ HICKS: Yeah. I can hear you fine.
5 I'm assuming the other parties can hear you as well.

6 MR. SIDDER: Okay. Just proceed.

7 ALJ HICKS: I don't know if maybe you
8 have a speaker on that maybe you could turn down.
9 Might help you out hearing us.

10 MR. SIDDER: Okay. I have got mine
11 turned down. My daughter has got hers turned up.

12 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Is that any better?

13 MR. SIDDER: We can try it.

14 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Can you hear me now?

15 MR. SIDDER: You're not coming through
16 real clear. Am I coming in clear to you?

17 ALJ HICKS: You are. I'm not having any
18 issues hearing you, and I saw a nod from our court
19 reporter, so she is hearing you okay.

20 MR. SIDDER: Okay. I can hear you
21 better now. Okay.

22 ALJ HICKS: Okay. If you could just
23 raise your right hand and let me know when you have
24 done so.

25 MR. SIDDER: I have done so.

1 ALJ HICKS: Okay.

2 (Witness sworn.)

3 ALJ HICKS: Okay. If you could state and
4 spell your name for the record.

5 MR. SIDDER: Okay. My official name is
6 William A. Sidders, W-I-L-L-I-A-M, middle initial A,
7 last name S-I-D-D-E-R-S.

8 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please
9 provide your address.

10 MR. SIDDER: 9956 Snapptown Road,
11 Quincy, Ohio 43343.

12 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Do you reside or work
13 within the project area?

14 MR. SIDDER: I live in -- right next to
15 it.

16 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead with
17 your testimony.

18 MR. SIDDER: Thank you. When this all
19 first started, I was invited to join in with this,
20 but I declined because this is prime farm ground, and
21 I don't believe in destroying it by putting solar
22 farms on it. At that time they said it was to be
23 500 acres. Then later it was changed to 900 plus
24 acres. Now they are saying or asking -- permitting
25 for 1,195 acres. When does this stop growing?

1 They could not include any of the
2 nonparticipating residents in their conversations
3 until approximately a year and a half later when the
4 opposition became known to Clearview, they sent out
5 letters to those living close to the proposed site
6 offering to provide 12 and 15 thousand dollars
7 towards installation of personal solar arrays. I
8 would consider this nothing but hush money to remove
9 the opposition to their plan.

10 As I said before, I don't believe in
11 removing farm ground from production for projects
12 like this. The State of Ohio has an initiative to
13 preserve our farm ground for generations to come.
14 This is contrary to that. This project would remove
15 acres -- these acres from production for the next 30
16 to 40 years and that is not good stewardship of the
17 ground, I don't believe.

18 Generations of farmers have spent decades
19 improving this land for one thing, farming. These
20 companies have come into Ohio from other states to
21 promote these solar farms and there are approximately
22 30 of those in Ohio involving thousands of acres who
23 don't have to look at these panels from their homes.
24 In fact, the majority of the people who have signed
25 up for Clearview Solar don't even live in Adams

1 Township and some don't even live in Champaign
2 County. They won't be seeing them every day like we
3 will.

4 This project has caused bad feelings
5 between neighbors and in some cases even families.
6 It is detrimental to the physical and mental health
7 of the residents in this area. If it weren't for the
8 government subsidies, these projects probably would
9 not be considered because of the cost of solar
10 equipment, even though they say it is coming down.

11 This is all about a few getting rich at
12 the expense of others. They promise big tax payments
13 to the local school systems, and you said 500,000.
14 Originally they were saying 1 million. Okay. Where
15 does that fit in? Do people really realize that not
16 only are they gaining tax money, but they are using
17 your tax money to subsidize these projects?

18 As to the equipment itself, there really
19 aren't many guarantees in this world except death and
20 taxes. We do not know for certain that there won't
21 be problems such as water and ground contamination.
22 One neighbor brought to light at one of the meetings
23 that the water aquifer for the town of Quincy extends
24 underneath this solar project site. That is of great
25 concern for us who have to rely on that aquifer for

1 our water needs.

2 Also, even though there is supposed to be
3 funds to remove all this equipment and return the
4 ground to its original state, who really knows what
5 the state of affairs will be 30 to 40 years from now?
6 We don't know what other problems could arise between
7 now and then. There are other more feasible and
8 better ways to produce a steady constant service of
9 electrical power without ruining our farm ground.

10 The sun only shines during the day, and
11 it goes south for the winter. I don't call that
12 being sustainable. If people want to put solar
13 arrays on their own property and on their house,
14 that's fine and dandy with me. But to have to put --
15 have to look at 1,200 acres of solar panels every
16 time I go to town is very disgusting to me. I do not
17 consider it good stewardship, and I am definitely not
18 in favor of this solar project.

19 And as far as people getting jobs to this
20 end, that job is only going to last for one year
21 because they have to put this in in a one-year
22 period. Then what do you do with those people? Lay
23 them off. Thank you.

24 ALJ HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Sidders.

25 MR. SIDDEERS: Yes.

1 ALJ HICKS: I will open it up to
2 Ms. Pirik if she has any questions.

3 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

4 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Ms. Napier, any
5 questions from you?

6 MS. NAPIER: As usual, just a couple.
7 Mr. Sidders, I'm with the Prosecutor's Office. I
8 don't know if you can see me. You have indicated
9 your -- you own property next to this project area;
10 is that correct?

11 MR. SIDDEERS: Yes. I own -- I own 80
12 acres in Champaign County right next to the project
13 site. In fact, the DP&L lines run just over the
14 corner of my property.

15 MS. NAPIER: You said 80 acres?

16 MR. SIDDEERS: Right.

17 MS. NAPIER: Okay. Do you farm that
18 currently?

19 MR. SIDDEERS: At this time I have it
20 rented out to another person to farm it. I've
21 retired.

22 MS. NAPIER: They do put crops in there;
23 is that correct? Hello?

24 Did I lose him?

25 ALJ HICKS: I'm not sure. Mr. Sidders?

1 MR. SIDDERSON: Yes.

2 MS. NAPIER: Okay. Maybe he didn't hear.
3 So you rent it -- you are putting in crops in your
4 80 acres.

5 MR. SIDDERSON: Right.

6 MS. NAPIER: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. SIDDERSON: My grandparents bought this
8 farm in 1943, and I am the next generation of that.
9 We have been farming this ground for all these years.
10 I will not let it be used for a solar farm as long as
11 I have breath in my body.

12 MS. NAPIER: Thank you. I have no
13 further questions.

14 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Thank you for your
15 testimony, Mr. Sidders. You are free to go.

16 MR. SIDDERSON: Thank you.

17 ALJ HICKS: I believe our next witness is
18 Patrick Hook.

19 MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Hook, you've been
20 promoted. If you can enable your audio and video.

21 MR. HOOK: All right. I think getting
22 there.

23 ALJ HICKS: There we go. I can see and
24 hear you. If you could just raise your right hand
25 for me.

1 (Witness sworn.)

2 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please state
3 and spell your name for the record.

4 MR. HOOK: Patrick Hook, P-A-T-R-I-C-K
5 H-O-O-K.

6 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please
7 provide your address.

8 MR. HOOK: 1502 Glenn Avenue, Columbus,
9 Ohio. That's Franklin County, Washington Township.

10 ALJ HICKS: And do you reside or work
11 within the project area?

12 MR. HOOK: I do not reside, but I
13 represent a jurisdiction that -- the project area is
14 inside my jurisdiction as a member of the
15 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

16 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead with
17 your testimony.

18 MR. HOOK: Good evening. My name is
19 Patrick Hook. I am the business manager and
20 long-time member of the International Brotherhood of
21 Electrical Workers Local 683.

22 Over my years of employment, I've worked
23 many places in and around Champaign County. I have
24 watched the transition from coal generation to
25 generation with lower or no carbon emissions such as

1 solar.

2 Our rural areas with vast farmland is
3 particularly suited to be a great area for this
4 project. I speak in complete support of the jobs
5 that Clearview solar project will provide. The
6 hundreds of direct jobs will have a lasting impact on
7 our area. I know that the IBEW stands to provide the
8 workers necessary to complete the project in a safe,
9 timely manner.

10 It is also our intention that if given
11 the opportunity, these jobs will become lifelong
12 careers in the electrical industry, good paying,
13 steady jobs with benefits, jobs this entire area is
14 in need of.

15 Thank you for your time this evening. I
16 look forward to working with Clearview solar project
17 and the Ohio Power Siting Board providing any
18 information I could -- I can to ensure this project
19 moves forward. Thank you.

20 ALJ HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Hook.

21 Ms. Pirik, any questions for this
22 witness?

23 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

24 ALJ HICKS: Ms. Napier, any questions?

25 MS. NAPIER: Yes. Mr. Hook, are you

1 involved with constructing this project in any way?

2 MR. HOOK: I represent -- I represent
3 electrical workers that work in our jurisdiction,
4 includes Champaign County.

5 MS. NAPIER: Okay. Are you familiar with
6 who will be working -- do you have members that will
7 be putting in this project?

8 MR. HOOK: I don't think we're to that
9 place yet but we -- hopefully a contractor that is
10 signatory to the International Brotherhood of
11 Electrical Workers would get this project, and then
12 my members would be on the project.

13 MS. NAPIER: So as it's fairly new, do
14 you know how many jobs are going to be given to your
15 members?

16 MR. HOOK: I mean, it -- depending on
17 the, you know, the duration of the project but
18 hundreds, probably 2 to 3 hundred at least.

19 MS. NAPIER: You have 2 to 3 hundred in a
20 1200 -- 11, 12 hundred acre project?

21 MR. HOOK: Yeah.

22 MS. NAPIER: And are those long-term
23 jobs?

24 MR. HOOK: I mean, all jobs in
25 construction are temporary.

1 MS. NAPIER: Okay. And do you know how
2 long it would be to -- to construct those -- this
3 project?

4 MR. HOOK: No. I think you have six
5 months to a year, I think.

6 MS. NAPIER: So -- so what area is going
7 to benefit with jobs?

8 MR. HOOK: Well, I mean, you know,
9 electrical workers, this would be a job for
10 electrical workers. And, you know, increased job
11 opportunities give us the opportunity to bring in
12 more members into our organization, apprentices to --
13 can start a career and become, you know, journeymen
14 electricians.

15 MS. NAPIER: Any type of construction
16 would be something that you would be a proponent of;
17 is that correct?

18 MR. HOOK: What do you mean by any
19 construction?

20 MS. NAPIER: Any -- any type of
21 construction that would utilize your members you
22 would be in favor of, correct?

23 MR. HOOK: Potentially, yes.
24 Potentially.

25 MS. NAPIER: Is there any jobs you

1 wouldn't be in favor of?

2 MR. HOOK: Well, I mean, maybe a job that
3 would impact the safety or welfare of the members.

4 MS. NAPIER: Other than that, any other
5 things you could think of that you would not be in
6 favor of as -- as a job for your -- your members?

7 MR. HOOK: Well, I mean, my members do
8 electric work. When there is electric work to be
9 done, we want to be the ones to do it.

10 MS. NAPIER: Okay. Thank you very much.
11 I appreciate it. I have no further questions.

12 MR. HOOK: Yep.

13 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

14 And I thank you again, Mr. Hook, for your
15 testimony, and you are free to go.

16 MR. HOOK: Thank you.

17 ALJ HICKS: Our next witness is Jaimi
18 Sparks-Baker who I believe we have on the -- on the
19 phone.

20 MS. KOCHER: Your Honor, sorry. Yes, we
21 do. This is Jill. We have Jaimi Sparks-Baker on the
22 telephone. Thank you.

23 MS. SPARKS-BAKER: Hi, your Honor.

24 ALJ HICKS: Hello. If you could raise
25 your right hand and let me know when you have done

1 so.

2 MS. SPARKS-BAKER: I have.

3 ALJ HICKS: Okay.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 ALJ HICKS: Okay. If you could please
6 state and spell your name for the record.

7 MS. SPARKS-BAKER: My name is Jaimi
8 Sparks-Baker, J-A-I-M-I S-P-A-R-K-S hyphen B-A-K-E-R.

9 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And could you please
10 provide your address.

11 MS. SPARKS-BAKER: 9456 Snapptown Road,
12 Quincy, Ohio, and that is in Champaign County.

13 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And do you reside or
14 work within the project area?

15 MS. SPARKS-BAKER: Yes, I do, reside.

16 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead and
17 proceed with your testimony.

18 MS. SPARKS-BAKER: I have -- I live on a
19 farm that was owned by my grandparents, so I am the
20 third generation that has owned this farm. We do not
21 have land being used in the -- in the project, so I
22 live in the project area, but I have not committed
23 land to the project. I am opposed to the solar
24 panels being put into this area.

25 And there are some concerns I have about

1 the solar project. My first concern is that of
 2 pollution of the groundwater that could be caused
 3 from the solar panels themselves. I know that the
 4 solar panels when they are made, through research I
 5 found out that they use cadmium telluride, cadmium
 6 selenide, copper, lead, and polyvinyl fluoride and
 7 that all these chemicals are toxic. I know they are
 8 more dangerous in the manufacturing of the panels
 9 than they are in the installation of the panels
 10 through speaking with the Clearview company.

11 However, my concern is that if some of
 12 these panels get damaged and the weather is very
 13 windy out there, and there is a lot of severe weather
 14 in this area because it's very flat, that the damaged
 15 panels, if the rainwater mixes with the damaged
 16 panels, that some of these chemicals could run into
 17 the groundwater and contaminate it.

18 When I brought this concern to the
 19 Clearview company, they -- we talked about maybe
 20 putting some tester wells in place. One of the
 21 reasons I am very concerned about the ground --
 22 groundwater, of course, it's because of me and my
 23 children and my family but also my -- two houses down
 24 Knisleys have a well drilling company. And on their
 25 property they have a feeder well that they use when

1 they create new wells, they have to fill that up and
2 so that's water that they will be using throughout
3 the entire community on these feeder wells.

4 Also the substation will be built on top
5 of the aquifer for the Village of Quincy. And the
6 Village of Quincy is not in Champaign County, but
7 their aquifer will be -- runs very close to them
8 because we are on the county line, so their aquifer
9 will be under the substation, and the Village of
10 Quincy has been made aware of that and they were, the
11 last of my knowledge and investigations, trying to
12 look into the fact that it was being built on top of
13 their village aquifer.

14 Also, in addition to concerns about any
15 rainwater leaching things into the groundwater, also
16 it's beside a creek. The substation would be beside
17 the creek so that will take it throughout the entire
18 community as well.

19 Another thing that I am concerned about
20 is the health effects from the magnetic waves that
21 would come off of the -- I am not sure I am getting
22 all the terminology correct but coming from turning
23 the solar into energy, all the magnetic waves that
24 would come from there. And I researched that on
25 solarfarms.com. I don't know if you need evidence of

1 where I looked it up.

2 And then in addition to those concerns
3 will be the effects on the environment. A couple
4 community members visited a solar farm in Piqua where
5 we talked to the residents, and they said there are
6 no insects and no birds any more, that they have left
7 the area because of the magnetic waves and the heat
8 that is produced from the solar farm there. On
9 energysage.com they say the solar panels can get up
10 to 149 degrees Fahrenheit, and they have killed
11 140,000 birds annually.

12 We have Monarch butterflies and African
13 brown bats in this area, and those are both
14 endangered species, so I do have worries about their
15 habitats being changed and them leaving the area and
16 losing their habitats.

17 There also will be fences put up around
18 the solar panel area and there are a lot of coyotes
19 in this area and I, though I do not have crops on my
20 farm, have livestock and I am concerned that the
21 coyotes not being able to use their natural hunting
22 routes that they used for the deer and the rabbits
23 and such, because there's woods in the back where
24 they spend a lot of their time, and it's far from my
25 property, but if we ruin their natural hunting

1 routes, I am afraid that will funnel straight to our
2 farms and endanger our livestock.

3 Also I -- I do believe that we should
4 keep the farmland in the farmland. With the growing
5 population that we have in America, in 35 years we
6 are going to need more farmland not less, and I just
7 think there are probably other locations we could put
8 these solar panels on that aren't fine farmland that
9 would have more minimal effect in the production of
10 crops that we are going to need.

11 Every other thing that you would have to
12 build in this area you would take through the
13 township, and my last concern is that solar panels do
14 not have to go through the local level to be looked
15 at by the township first. I know there is a bill
16 right now being looked at to take that into
17 consideration and give the local government a little
18 more say in what's going on with the solar panels.
19 So if we decide to go ahead with the solar panel, I
20 would really ask that we postpone it and allow the
21 community that it's going to effect to get a chance
22 to vote on whether they do want the solar panels here
23 or not.

24 Many of the community members, I've
25 talked to many of my neighbors. As stated before,

1 only two of the families around here have -- have
 2 leased land to the solar farm and actually live here.
 3 Only two families live here that have leased land.
 4 Everybody else lives somewhere else, so they are not
 5 going to be affected by any of these concerns that
 6 the rest of us have.

7 Many of the other community members were
 8 not informed, as Mr. Sidders said, until very late in
 9 the game when there was nothing that could be done
 10 about it. I know that Mr. Mike Pullins said we were
 11 informed early on, and we were not. We did not find
 12 out until at least a year after the solar panel
 13 project was introduced to them, and they already had
 14 land leased.

15 So please consider those concerns that --
 16 that I have and the rest of the community has when
 17 making your decision. Thank you.

18 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

19 Ms. Pirik, any questions for this
 20 witness?

21 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

22 ALJ HICKS: Ms. Napier, any questions for
 23 the witness?

24 MS. NAPIER: No, your Honor. Thank you.

25 ALJ HICKS: I would like to thank you,

1 Ms. Sparks-Baker, for your testimony, and you are
2 free to go.

3 I believe our next witness is Mike Morey.

4 MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Morey, you've been
5 promoted. If you can enable your audio and video.

6 MR. MOREY: Can you hear me?

7 ALJ HICKS: I can hear you, and I can see
8 you.

9 MR. MOREY: All right.

10 ALJ HICKS: If you could please raise
11 your right hand for me.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 ALJ HICKS: Okay. If you could please
14 state and spell your name for the record.

15 MR. MOREY: My name is Mike Morey,
16 M-I-K-E M-O-R-E-Y.

17 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please
18 provide your address.

19 MR. MOREY: Yes. 602 Frazier Road North,
20 that's in Columbus, Ohio. That's Franklin County,
21 Hamilton Township.

22 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Do you reside or work
23 within the project area?

24 MR. MOREY: I do not reside. The --
25 Champaign County is part of the jurisdiction we

1 represent as the IBEW.

2 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please proceed with
3 your testimony.

4 MR. MOREY: Thank you for allowing me the
5 opportunity to speak this evening. Once again, my
6 name is Mike Morey. I'm a member and business
7 representative of the International Brotherhood of
8 Electrical Workers Local 683. Local 683 represents
9 electrical workers that live and work in the central
10 Ohio area including the proposed Clearview Solar cite
11 in Champaign County.

12 IBEW Local 683 strongly supports the
13 approval of this project. Approval of this project
14 will be beneficial to the residents of Ohio in many
15 ways. While increasing tax revenues for local
16 schools and municipalities, the project would provide
17 jobs for local residents. Providing diversity in
18 energy generation in Ohio is a favorable benefit.
19 Aiding to decrease the pollution created by other
20 sources of power generation, Clearview Solar would
21 make clean energy available for the residents and
22 businesses in Ohio.

23 Thank you for your time.

24 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

25 Ms. Pirik, if you have any questions for

1 the witness.

2 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

3 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Ms. Napier?

4 MS. NAPIER: Yes, your Honor. Just a
5 couple of questions.

6 Mr. Morey, can you tell me, do you know
7 any electrical workers who reside in Champaign County
8 at this point in time?

9 MR. MOREY: Yes.

10 MS. NAPIER: Okay. Do you know their
11 names?

12 MR. MOREY: I mean, we're a 2,000 member
13 local.

14 MS. NAPIER: So we've had --

15 MR. MOREY: I didn't come prepared with a
16 list of all the members that live in Champaign
17 County.

18 MS. NAPIER: Okay. Do you know how many
19 people will move to Champaign County for the
20 construction of your members?

21 MR. MOREY: I can't answer that.

22 MS. NAPIER: Is it foreseeable they will
23 move to Champaign County for the purpose of this
24 project?

25 MR. MOREY: They may need to live there

1 to be in the vicinity of the job while it's ongoing.

2 MS. NAPIER: How -- how big is your area
3 in which you -- you cover as a representative?

4 MR. MOREY: We have eight counties that
5 we cover.

6 MS. NAPIER: Okay. Can you tell me what
7 those eight counties are?

8 MR. MOREY: Champagne, Clark, Madison,
9 Franklin, Fairfield, part of Pickaway, and Delaware,
10 and Union.

11 MS. NAPIER: Okay. And so that's where
12 all those -- your members live are those eight
13 counties?

14 MR. MOREY: That is the jurisdiction our
15 local represents. We have members that live outside
16 the jurisdiction.

17 MS. NAPIER: So it may benefit other
18 counties as opposed to Champaign County; is that
19 correct?

20 MR. MOREY: I don't know who's going to
21 work on the project, so I couldn't answer that.

22 MS. NAPIER: Okay. But you are in favor
23 of this project because it may benefit your -- your
24 jurisdiction which is more than Champaign County; is
25 that correct?

1 MR. MOREY: Yes.

2 MS. NAPIER: Thank you. I have no
3 further questions.

4 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

5 Mr. Morey, I thank you for the time and
6 your testimony, and you are free to go.

7 I believe our next witness is Reenie
8 Elliott, and I believe we have her on the phone
9 already.

10 MS. KOCHER: Your Honor, yes. This is
11 Jill Kocher. We have Reenie Elliott on the telephone
12 as a telephone witness.

13 ALJ HICKS: Ms. Elliott.

14 MS. ELLIOTT: Yes.

15 ALJ HICKS: Hi. If you could raise your
16 right hand and let me know when you have done so.

17 MS. ELLIOTT: Okay. I have.

18 ALJ HICKS: Okay.

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 ALJ HICKS: Okay. If you could please
21 state and spell your name for the record.

22 MS. ELLIOTT: R-E-E-N-I-E, Elliott,
23 E-L-L-I-O-T-T.

24 ALJ HICKS: Thank you. Could you please
25 provide your address.

1 MS. ELLIOTT: 9525 Snapptown Road,
2 Quincy, Ohio 43343.

3 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And do you reside or
4 work within the project area?

5 MS. ELLIOTT: I reside in the area.

6 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead with
7 your testimony.

8 MS. ELLIOTT: Thank you. I think more
9 concerns need to be given to all that are living in
10 the area. Many have lived here for years as
11 families' farms have been our homes for generations
12 including mine. Only two families live in this solar
13 panel leasing area. They -- everyone else does not.
14 They live somewhere else. They lease their fields,
15 I'm sorry.

16 Many years were spent preparing this land
17 for farming which was desired by our government.
18 Now, our farming plan is being destroyed. Our
19 property value is being destroyed also, and some of
20 the occupants here are actually moving out. If this
21 solar panel farm passes, the distance from our houses
22 should be reexamined. There are way -- they are way
23 too close to our houses and have plenty of open area
24 to be used.

25 Some of the harmful effect to the ground,

1 the birds, the animals, and the pets are big concerns
2 and will -- also the chances of cancer, and the heat
3 from the panels, that's also an extreme concern, I
4 think.

5 I'm sorry. All of this started by the
6 desire for someone to have more money, and I feel the
7 possibilities for a hazardous outcome was not a large
8 concern. Rather, it was the money that people were
9 going to get from this. And no consideration was
10 given to the people that are living in this farming
11 community.

12 There are at least two other people that
13 I know of that want to participate in this hearing
14 about their concerns with the solar panel because
15 they live in this area, but technology was a problem
16 for them.

17 Also I did notice that there was some
18 regulations given to the solar people that were
19 working and examining the land and there was
20 stipulations that were given to them. They weren't
21 allowed to use people's access to get to where they
22 wanted to and they did come on somebody's property
23 and they had to be called and say why are they
24 walking all of my property and they weren't allowed
25 to. They were ruining crops walking on things like

1 that, the crops stuff. So if we are having this
2 problem this early, what's going to happen when they
3 get their 200 plus workers out here? I mean, this is
4 just five men not following what their guidelines
5 were. What's going to happen then?

6 I believe that's all. I thank you very
7 much for giving us the opportunity to do this. I
8 feel like we are being ignored.

9 ALJ HICKS: Thank you, Ms. Elliott. I
10 will open --

11 MS. ELLIOTT: Thank you very much.

12 ALJ HICKS: I will open it to Ms. Pirik
13 if she has any questions for the witness.

14 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

15 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Then, Ms. Napier, any
16 questions for you?

17 MS. NAPIER: No, your Honor. Thank you.

18 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Thank you again,
19 Ms. Elliott, for your testimony.

20 MS. ELLIOTT: Thank you, your Honor.
21 Bye.

22 ALJ HICKS: Okay. I believe our next
23 witness is Sandy Dammeyer who I believe we have on
24 the phone.

25 MR. BUTLER: Yes, your Honor. This is

1 Matt Butler. I have Ms. Dammeyer on the phone.

2 ALJ HICKS: Hello, Ms. Dammeyer.

3 MS. DAMMEYER: Yes, hello. How are you?

4 ALJ HICKS: Good. If you could just
5 raise your right hand and let me know when you have
6 done so.

7 MS. DAMMEYER: Yep. I'm doing it right
8 now.

9 ALJ HICKS: Okay.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please state
12 and spell your name for the record.

13 MS. DAMMEYER: Sandy Dammeyer, S-A-N-D-Y
14 D-A-M-M-E-Y-E-R.

15 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please
16 provide your address.

17 MS. DAMMEYER: 8903 State Route 235
18 South, Quincy, Ohio.

19 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Do you reside or work
20 within the project area?

21 MS. DAMMEYER: Reside. We are neighbors.

22 ALJ HICKS: I'm sorry. I didn't catch
23 that last part. Karen, are you hearing her okay?

24 MS. DAMMEYER: We are a neighbor, and
25 we've been receiving these letters.

1 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead with
2 your testimony.

3 MS. DAMMEYER: Okay. Well, I'm just
4 wondering if our opinion really matters or if this is
5 already a cut and dried deal?

6 ALJ HICKS: I'm sorry. Yes. So this
7 actually -- so this is an opportunity for you to
8 provide testimony, not really a question and answer
9 type of session.

10 MS. DAMMEYER: Okay. Okay.

11 ALJ HICKS: So if you want to go ahead
12 and provide -- provide your testimony, you are free
13 to do so.

14 MS. DAMMEYER: Okay. Well, we have -- we
15 have lived here for 53 years. We've raised our kids
16 here. I'm just concerned with -- with our water
17 supply and the creeks that run through the property,
18 if it's going to be safe for all living animals and
19 people. That's one thing I'm concerned about.

20 And me farm ground is to be farmed. I
21 don't really want to look out my window and see all
22 these panels. I would rather see corn and beans. I
23 guess -- I guess I'm just -- I'm concerned with our
24 health and also the neighbor's health with all these
25 panels going up, all the wildlife that we -- that we

1 like that we feed. That's -- that's a big concern
2 with our health also.

3 So I guess that's all I have at this
4 time.

5 ALJ HICKS: Okay. I will open it up to
6 Ms. Pirik if she has any questions for the witness.

7 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

8 ALJ HICKS: Ms. Napier, any questions for
9 the witness?

10 MS. NAPIER: No questions, your Honor.
11 Thank you.

12 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Thank you.

13 Thank you again, Ms. Dammeyer, for your
14 testimony and you are free to go.

15 MS. DAMMEYER: Okay. Thank you.

16 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

17 MS. DAMMEYER: Bye-bye.

18 ALJ HICKS: Bye.

19 Okay. I believe we are going to circle
20 back to Nathan Persinger who we had earlier not been
21 able to connect with. It's my understanding we now
22 have him on the line. So we will call Nathan
23 Persinger as the next witness.

24 MS. KOCHER: Your Honor, this is Jill
25 Kocher. I have Nathan on the line as a telephone

1 witness.

2 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Mr. Persinger?

3 MR. PERSINGER: Yes.

4 ALJ HICKS: Could you please raise your
5 right hand and let me know when you have done so.

6 MR. PERSINGER: Okay. I do.

7 ALJ HICKS: Yeah.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please state
10 and spell your name for the record.

11 MR. PERSINGER: Nathan Persinger,
12 N-A-T-H-A-N P-E-R-S-I-N-G-E-R.

13 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please
14 provide your address.

15 MR. PERSINGER: 9084 Snapptown Road,
16 Quincy, Ohio.

17 ALJ HICKS: And do you reside or work
18 within the project area?

19 MR. PERSINGER: I live, yes, in the
20 project area.

21 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead with
22 your testimony.

23 MR. PERSINGER: I have lived here for 61
24 years of my life. I -- this family farm was
25 established in 1849 by my great great grandfather.

1 I have deep concerns about using this
2 land for a solar project because of the efficiency of
3 the panels and the construction of the panels along
4 with every other concern that my neighbors have.
5 Those two things stick out to me as the main
6 concerns.

7 First, the construction of the panels.
8 The solar panels are a structure, and the only way
9 that they don't fall under a local building code is
10 to make the solar array so big it comes under the
11 utilities, so here we are testifying on a -- to you
12 about something that should be handled here in our
13 own community.

14 But the panels are going to be built
15 with -- on pipes driven in the ground. I have been
16 in construction all my life so that solar panels are
17 meant to be mounted on houses, roofs, or foundations
18 that hold them in place. I have deep concerns about
19 thousands of acres of panels just being on pipes
20 driven in the ground. They are nothing but a big
21 wing waiting to launch. So to my -- to the State
22 that oversees this, they need to do some better
23 research on how to tie these things down and put them
24 on foundations. They don't need to be built the way
25 they are.

1 Another point is the effect that they
2 will have just being -- raising the temperature
3 around us. They are such large arrays. They are
4 built within a few hundred thousand feet of -- they
5 step them around your property, but they are pretty
6 close, and they are not just on my backyard. They
7 are in my front yard and all around me.

8 So we lost control of this property when
9 we sold it off piece by piece, and I didn't have
10 anything to do with that, but I own the last piece of
11 property here. To not say anything or to give my
12 objection, it wouldn't be right.

13 Solar panels are only 30 percent
14 efficient and that's by NASA's numbers. Supposedly
15 that's in outer space where the sun shines for 24
16 hours a day. But here on Snapptown Road it doesn't
17 shine that long and it -- in the wintertime it
18 definitely doesn't shine hardly at all so these are
19 only effective for a little bit of power in the heat
20 of the summertime, and the rest of the time they are
21 nothing but a pile of junk sitting out in the
22 backyard.

23 I question the viability of this being
24 that they are only 30 percent efficient and how long
25 they are really going to get any use out of it. I

1 think the end user that's really going to pay the
2 price is the AEP or whoever is buying the electric.
3 They are going -- they are going to stick it to --
4 it's going to end up costing everybody a lot more for
5 their electric, and it's all because of the
6 government pushing something green or isn't really as
7 green as -- it doesn't take as much carbon out as a
8 thousand acres of corn and soybeans growing. That
9 takes a lot of carbon every year to produce that much
10 crop and they are not going to save that much in
11 energy just by temporary solar panels.

12 Solar panels are great for your house.
13 They should be mandated that everybody have them and
14 power their lights with them every evening and that
15 would be a lot better solution to saving energy than
16 building great big farms that take up a very precious
17 natural resource. They say we are going to need 70
18 percent more food in -- by 2050 to feed our
19 population. And if they take vast amounts of very
20 productive ground out of -- out of the circulation,
21 they are going to be wanting food, and it's going to
22 cost us all more for food. So we have to be smart
23 about our resources and this isn't a smart decision.

24 I thank you for your time.

25 ALJ HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Persinger.

1 Ms. Pirik, do you have any questions for
2 this witness?

3 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

4 ALJ HICKS: And Ms. Napier?

5 MS. NAPIER: No questions, your Honor.

6 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Mr. Persinger, I thank
7 you once again for the time and your testimony, and
8 you are free to go.

9 MR. PERSINGER: Thank you.

10 ALJ HICKS: Okay. I believe our next
11 witness is Julia Johnson.

12 MR. SCHMIDT: Ms. Johnson, you've been
13 promoted. If you can enable your audio and/or video.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Did I do it?

15 ALJ HICKS: I can hear you.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Good. This is fine.

17 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Just go on just with
18 the audio?

19 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Thank you.

20 ALJ HICKS: Okay. If you could just
21 raise your right hand and let me know when you have
22 done so.

23 MS. JOHNSON: I have.

24 ALJ HICKS: Okay.

25 (Witness sworn.)

1 ALJ HICKS: Okay. If you could please
2 state and spell your name for the record.

3 MS. JOHNSON: My name is Julia Johnson.
4 It's J-U-L-I-A J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

5 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please
6 provide your address.

7 MS. JOHNSON: I reside at 4891 East U.S.
8 Highway 36, Urbana, Ohio.

9 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And do you reside or
10 work within the project area?

11 MS. JOHNSON: No, I do not.

12 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead with
13 your testimony.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you very much, your
15 Honor. I'm testifying today on behalf of Union
16 Neighbors United. I live in Union Township, and we
17 have an interest in this issue generally for our --
18 our entire county, and the purpose of my testimony
19 today is to address whether the facility, the
20 Clearview's facility, is consistent with the
21 Champaign County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. It is
22 not.

23 The Ohio Power Siting Board Staff Report
24 acknowledges the plan's objective to promote
25 preservation of farmland, protect the water quality,

1 pursue economic growth, and make decisions that will
2 lead to preservation and protection of the county's
3 natural resources, its rural character, and its small
4 town atmosphere.

5 The Clearview solar project does not
6 support these objectives. Further, the Board Staff
7 does not acknowledge other aspects of the plan that
8 are presented in the plan's survey results analysis
9 including the importance the community places on
10 focusing development in existing communities rather
11 than having green fields, protecting scenic beauty,
12 the value placed on outdoor recreation, increased
13 crop sale opportunities, and more. Farm markets,
14 record tourism, a buy local movement, and our local
15 restaurants, and you picks are all part of the
16 interconnected agriculture economy that defines the
17 character of Champaign County.

18 The farmland preservation is essential to
19 the success -- success of our plan and corresponding
20 preservation of the county rural character including
21 protection of open space and natural resources, and
22 many people have mentioned earlier our water quality.

23 The Department of Agricultural,
24 Environmental, and Development Economics at Ohio
25 State University reports Champaign County lost

1 8 percent of its farmland between 2007 and 2017.
 2 Taking more farmland out of production and converting
 3 that land to nonfarm use by a utility-scale power
 4 generation does not advance the goals of our local
 5 plan. The -- this project proposes the conversion of
 6 farmland to an industrial use. And both the
 7 Applicant and the Board Staff together have put
 8 forward what we believe is a false narrative in an
 9 effort to make the community believe that this
 10 project is something that it is not.

11 A utility-scale power generation facility
 12 is not farming. It is not agriculture. And it is
 13 not farmland preservation. The Ohio Revised Code in
 14 Section 519.01 defines agriculture, and it gives a
 15 long list of things like animal husbandry and
 16 horticulture and viticulture and whatnot, a lot of
 17 different items. But the definition does not include
 18 solar power generation. Again, a utility-scale power
 19 generation facility is not farming and it's not
 20 agriculture and it's not farmland preservation.

21 Over the past few years the American
 22 Farmland Trust has reported on the conversion of the
 23 nation's most productive farmland, and the AFT has
 24 published a report entitled "Farms Under Threat, the
 25 State of the States" in which Ohio is recognized as

1 having a significant amount of nationally significant
2 land which is considered the country's most
3 productive, versatile, and resilient land.

4 The AFT believes that conversion of
5 valuable farmland to uses that compromise agriculture
6 is a matter of national concern, and these
7 destructive uses are described as urban and other
8 highly developed uses as well as low density
9 residential. The American Soil -- Farmland Trust,
10 and this is important, it includes solar fields in
11 its definition of urban and highly developed uses.
12 They distinctly do not describe UHD farmland
13 conversion as farmland preservation.

14 So the Staff Report, it indicates at page
15 38 that approximately 1,168 acres of agricultural
16 land would be disturbed by the project and of that
17 100 -- 1,168 acres, 1,164 of agriculture land are
18 planned to be permanently impacted. Those are the
19 words from the Staff Report. The Clearview solar
20 project will place between 360,000 to 260 -- 620,308
21 solar panels on that land for the next 40 or more
22 years.

23 And the definition of a generation is
24 generally considered to be 20 to 30 years during
25 which children are born and grow up, become adults,

1 and begin to have children. The land removed from
2 the agricultural production for Clearview will be
3 removed for at least one, if not two generations.
4 And for people living in Champaign County, it's a
5 lifetime, and it does represent a permanent loss of
6 farmland.

7 Local business owners that serve the
8 local ag economy will lose business and that loss
9 will be for the rest of the business owner's life.
10 The developer and the Power Siting Board can
11 speculate that some day in the far future that land
12 might be reclaimed, but they cannot claim that a
13 speculation like this is farmland preservation.

14 It's likely not widely known by the
15 Champaign County community that in 2019 the Farm
16 Bureau adopted a policy to recognize on farm energy
17 production as an agricultural product. And I really
18 don't know whether this is like on farm for on farm
19 use or just generally, but the Clearview application
20 states at page 67 that the project -- quote The
21 project also reflects important economic and personal
22 decisions by the participating landowners to
23 diversify their land uses to include solar. And in
24 that connection the Applicant notes that the Farm
25 Bureau Federation recently revised its policies to

1 support recognition of on farm energy production as
2 an agricultural product.

3 Again, the Ohio Revised Code does not
4 define utility-scale power as agriculture, and the
5 Farm Bureau can call it whatever they want, but they
6 can't make up their own definition and twist it into
7 farmland preservation to create a false narrative
8 that the project supports the Champaign County
9 Comprehensive Plan.

10 And the Power Siting Board must not
11 accept that false narrative to rubber stamp the
12 application in contravention of our local land use
13 plan. If the maker of the sugary soda pop says to
14 drink five cans a day for the next 40 years in order
15 to retain good health, and the soda pop industry
16 supports the soda pop maker's claims, would such
17 industry support be accepted? I don't think so.
18 Would it stand up in court if the five can a day
19 consumer did -- died a premature death from diabetes
20 or obesity? And would 40 years be needed to pass
21 before the truth of the claim could be ascertained?
22 This analysis was just as ridiculous as the case
23 we're describing Clearview as farmland preservation.

24 And I'm just about finished here, but
25 likewise assertions of the land removal from

1 agricultural production may be restored to
2 agricultural use is pure speculation. Given that the
3 developer appears to have the right to purchase some
4 of this leased land, it is more likely that the land
5 will never be returned to agricultural use.

6 In addition to loss of farmland, the
7 adverse impact the project may have on area farmers
8 who lease land for crop production is ignored. Given
9 that a number of participating landowners do not live
10 in Adams Township but rather out of the county and
11 out of the state, it's reasonable to assume that
12 local farmers who cash rent in Adams Township and
13 depend on leased land for the viability of their
14 operations will suffer an economic loss. Some of
15 these might be more properly characterized as
16 investors and not working farmers. And the Power
17 Siting Board's claim that the facility would provide
18 supplemental income to quote-unquote farmers is
19 questionable.

20 The economic model employed by the
21 Applicant makes a case for the alleged benefits of
22 the project but there is no net benefit
23 consideration. Loss to the local ag economy are not
24 considered nor is the loss of ecosystem services
25 provided by the natural environment. The potential

1 cost of weather-related damage and risks to the water
2 supply for the Village of Quincy is not calculated.
3 Yet protection of Champaign County's water resources
4 is a comprehensive plan priority.

5 Between 2010 and 2029, the tax breaks for
6 wind and solar will total about \$140 billion. The
7 Biden Administration is proposing a 10-year extension
8 of those incentives, and the cost to taxpayers is not
9 a consideration in socioeconomic calculations
10 submitted in support of the application.

11 It's also important for the Champaign
12 County community to understand that the Clearview
13 application economic model is not a projection of
14 economic benefit to Champaign County but rather to a
15 three-county area plus the State of Ohio generally.

16 So notwithstanding all of the economic
17 and environmental harms and costs -- I'm sorry. Not
18 withstanding all of that, the -- the environmental
19 costs and the harms from this project accrue solely
20 to Champaign County while the alleged benefits are
21 regional and statewide.

22 In addition to the above concerns, we
23 note that the numbers used in the socioeconomic
24 report appear to have been uncritically accepted by
25 the Power Siting Board. For instance, on page 3 of

1 the report is the following claim, "The State is
2 estimated to realize an additional 402 thousand to
3 2.6 million annually in increased economic activity
4 of which approximately 278,500 million will benefit
5 Champaign, Logan, and Shelby Counties." This
6 statement is impossible. We respectfully request
7 that the Power Siting Board reject the Staff Report
8 to the extent that it is based on a false narrative
9 on farmland preservation designed to create the
10 illusion that the development is consistent with the
11 Champaign County plan.

12 Thank you very much for your time.

13 ALJ HICKS: Thank you, Ms. Johnson.

14 Ms. Pirik, any questions for the witness?

15 MS. PIRIK: I just have a couple
16 questions, your Honor.

17 Ms. Johnson, I just want to be sure that
18 the record is clear. Where -- what is the address
19 where you currently reside?

20 MS. JOHNSON: 4891 East U.S. Highway 36,
21 Urbana, Ohio.

22 MS. PIRIK: Okay. And that's your
23 residence then.

24 MS. JOHNSON: That's correct.

25 MS. PIRIK: Okay. Also are you a member

1 of the Energy and Wildlife Coalition?

2 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, I am.

3 MS. PIRIK: Okay. And is the mission of
4 that organization, the goal to stop utility-scale
5 renewables?

6 MS. JOHNSON: No. The purpose of the
7 organization is to -- to ensure the safeguard of
8 wildlife, protect wildlife, and to protect natural
9 resources as well as human communities from adverse
10 impacts from industrial renewable energy.

11 MS. PIRIK: Thank you, your Honor.
12 That's all I have.

13 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

14 Ms. Napier, any questions for the
15 witness?

16 MS. NAPIER: No questions, your Honor.

17 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Ms. Johnson, I thank
18 you for your time and your testimony.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

20 ALJ HICKS: I believe our next witness is
21 Kathy Schaefer.

22 MR. SCHMIDT: Ms. Schaefer, you've been
23 promoted. If you can enable your audio and/or video.

24 ALJ HICKS: I can see you, but I think
25 you're muted.

1 MS. SCHAEFER: Okay. Let me try this
2 again.

3 ALJ HICKS: Okay. I can hear you.

4 MS. SCHAEFER: Great. Great.

5 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Perfect. If you can
6 just raise your right hand for me.

7 MS. SCHAEFER: I'm ready.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 ALJ HICKS: Okay. If you could please
10 state and spell your name for the record.

11 MS. SCHAEFER: Okay. My name is Kathy
12 Schaefer, K-A-T-H-Y S-C-H-A-E-F-E-R. And I'm the
13 managing member of Rose Manor which is our family
14 farm at 4132 County Road 68, Quincy, Ohio.

15 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And is that within the
16 project area?

17 MS. SCHAEFER: Yes, it is. It is
18 directly within the project area.

19 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead with
20 your testimony.

21 MS. SCHAEFER: Okay. As a preface, we
22 have a 140 acre farm which abuts to the
23 Champaign-Logan County line. It directly -- it's
24 directly across the road from the proposed project.

25 The only written communication that I

1 have received from Clearview was in July of 2020.
2 And in that communication it had one pamphlet and one
3 map. I have heard nothing from this company since
4 July of 2020, almost a year.

5 We did not receive notice of this
6 evening's meeting. I had a neighbor phone me
7 yesterday, June 7, at 11:30 a.m. telling me there was
8 a noon deadline to get on the witness list. So I had
9 approximately 20 minutes to do this. This
10 communication style of this company is either inept
11 or they're purposely hiding information for -- from
12 the landowners who are directly involved in this
13 proposed project area.

14 My concern is what is the recourse that
15 we have if there is groundwater spillage? This water
16 will go directly over our fields and ruin our crops.
17 If the air is bad, if the water is bad, if the soil
18 is bad, at what point will we be notified? They have
19 not proven to me they will communicate with us in any
20 prompt manner.

21 ALJ HICKS: Ms. Schaefer, I'm sorry to
22 cut you off. I think Ms. Pirik may have dropped off.

23 MS. SCHAEFER: Okay. You need me to
24 start over?

25 ALJ HICKS: No, no. Just hold on for

1 just a second. I want to see if -- it may just be a
2 bandwidth issue with our video.

3 There. I can see her now. Can you hear
4 us okay, Ms. Pirik?

5 MS. SCHAEFER: I can't hear you.

6 ALJ HICKS: You are muted, but I can see
7 you talking so that's a good sign.

8 MS. SCHAEFER: That's a good sign.

9 MS. PIRIK: All is good. I heard
10 everything she said. So Ms. Schaefer can go forward.

11 ALJ HICKS: Okay. I apologize for
12 cutting you off, but I just wanted to make sure
13 everyone was still good to go.

14 MS. SCHAEFER: That's fine. That's fine.

15 ALJ HICKS: Go ahead.

16 MS. SCHAEFER: I think I was concerned
17 with the soil, water, and air and how soon, if this
18 project goes forward, that we would learn of any
19 environmental accident.

20 This is prime farmland. It has been in
21 my family since 1929. And my grandfather and my
22 father Max Rose and myself have maintained this farm,
23 and we have grown corn and soybean on this farm for
24 all of those years.

25 There is a unique relationship between

1 the wildlife in the area and farming. For those
2 people who do not farm, you don't just throw a bunch
3 of seeds on the ground, and it comes up. You need
4 animals. You need the birds. You need the insects.
5 You need all of that to make the crops grow properly.
6 If we don't have crops, we don't have income. If we
7 don't have income, we lose our family farms.

8 Now, I'm hoping that this farm will be
9 around for my children. But if a project like this
10 is allowed to be built, I really have my doubts that
11 it will be in good shape for future farming purposes.

12 The way I see it Clearview is taking all
13 the advantages, and the area farmers and landowners
14 are taking all the risks. We have the risks; they
15 get the money.

16 The proposed project debris will be there
17 for 40 years. And I don't know if they will clean it
18 up. And who knows if that land will be farmable?

19 This -- this meeting is to decide the
20 environmental compatibility and public need. I don't
21 see a compare -- a compatible environment with a
22 solar panel farm. It is not compatible for the
23 farmers and the landowners in this area.

24 This proposed project will not benefit
25 the people of Champaign or Logan County. It is not

1 compatible with the environment and there is no
2 public need. Thank you.

3 ALJ HICKS: Thank you, Ms. Schaefer.

4 Ms. Pirik, any questions for the witness?

5 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

6 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Ms. Napier, did you
7 have any questions for the witness?

8 MS. NAPIER: No questions, your Honor.

9 ALJ HICKS: Okay. I thank you,
10 Ms. Schaefer, for the time and for your testimony.

11 MS. SCHAEFER: Thank you.

12 ALJ HICKS: Take care.

13 Okay. I believe our final witness on the
14 list is Mark Heath. I believe we have him on the
15 phone.

16 MR. HEATH: Yes.

17 ALJ HICKS: Is that you, Mr. Heath?

18 MR. HEATH: Yes.

19 ALJ HICKS: Okay. If you could please
20 raise your right hand and let me know when you have
21 done so.

22 MR. HEATH: Okay. I'm ready.

23 (Witness sworn.)

24 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please state
25 and spell your name for the record.

1 MR. HEATH: My name is Mark Heath,
2 M-A-R-K H-E-A-T-H.

3 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please
4 provide your address.

5 MR. HEATH: 9909 State Route 235, Quincy.

6 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And do you reside or
7 work within the project area?

8 MR. HEATH: Yes, all around it.

9 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please go --

10 MR. HEATH: It's right out my front
11 drive.

12 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead with
13 your testimony.

14 MR. HEATH: I've been an area farmer for
15 45 years here, real reputable. I'm losing land to
16 the people that I cash rent from where I farmed that
17 I won't -- can't replace it. You know, you just
18 don't go out and replace acres when you lose acres.
19 And I'm worried about the existing tile, water flow,
20 you know, when -- what the damage is going to be
21 done.

22 I have it -- it's all around my home
23 farm. I'm not -- really concerned, just like some of
24 the others, about the wildlife and what -- what it's
25 going to do to the area farms next to these solar

1 farms. I am really interested in taking care of land
2 because I've been a farmer for a long time. And you
3 ask anybody in the neighborhood. I do a real good
4 job taking care of things. And, you know, weeds
5 growing up and, you know, destroying tile and, you
6 know, I don't go for that. I don't see the need in
7 this. And people that's from around these farms
8 aren't leaving it to long haul of things but for the
9 future of the next farmers.

10 And, you know, this is all I've done is
11 try to build a future. I have two boys that's going
12 to farm and farming with me right now and I am going
13 to leave my stuff to them to farm and just there's no
14 need for this -- there's better places to put this
15 solar stuff, not in prime farmland. You know, I'm
16 not a smart person, but I do know how to take care of
17 the land and that's not taking care of the land.

18 This is all I have to say.

19 ALJ HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Heath.

20 Ms. Pirik, any questions for the witness?

21 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

22 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Ms. Napier, any
23 questions for the witness?

24 MS. NAPIER: I believe just one. Mark --
25 I mean, Mr. Heath, I know Mr. Heath as a former

1 trustee, how many -- how many acres do you farm,
2 Mr. Heath?

3 MR. HEATH: I'm farming currently around
4 1,600 acres.

5 MS. NAPIER: That's in that general area
6 of Adams Township?

7 MR. HEATH: Yep.

8 MS. NAPIER: Okay. Thank you.

9 MR. HEATH: Around like 900 acres, it's
10 all around it. I want to add one thing. I'm really
11 concerned, you know, about my land, what it's going
12 to do to the value and the water -- the way the water
13 is going to go because I have water running to some
14 of these solar plots from my farm. It will make my
15 farm a lake if they cut the tile, my home farm,
16 because the solar panels are right out my front
17 driveway. I have got to look at this.

18 MS. NAPIER: I have no further questions.

19 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Napier.

20 Ms. Pirik, any questions based on the
21 additional testimony or?

22 MS. PIRIK: No, your Honor. Thank you.

23 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Mr. Heath, I thank you
24 for taking the time and for providing testimony.

25 MR. HEATH: All right. Thank you, guys.

ALJ HICKS: Well, I believe that gets us through all 14 of our registered witnesses this evening. I would just once again thank everybody that took the time to participate, to provide testimony, and for anyone that tuned in via Webex or over the phone or the YouTube live stream, and thank our court reporter and all the Staff behind the scenes that made this, I think, go relatively smoothly and pain free.

So with that I think that concludes tonight's hearing. I hope everyone can enjoy the rest of their evening, and we are adjourned.

(Thereupon, at 7:53 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
a true and correct transcript of the proceedings
taken by me in this matter on Tuesday, June 8, 2021,
and carefully compared with my original stenographic
notes.

Karen Sue Gibson, Registered
Merit Reporter.

(KSG-7093)

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Summary: Transcript June 8th, 2021

In the Matter of the Application of Clearview Solar I, LLC, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Gibson, Karen Sue Mrs.