

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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In the Matter of the :
Application of Pleasant :
Prairie Solar Energy LLC :
for a Certificate of :
Environmental :
Compatibility and Public : Case No. 20-1679-EL-BGN
Need to Construct a :
Solar-Powered Electric :
Generation Facility in :
Franklin County, Ohio. :

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PROCEEDINGS

before Mr. Jay S. Agranoff and Mr. David Hicks,
Administrative Law Judges, and Ms. Jenifer French,
Chair, at the Ohio Power Siting Board, 1415 Darby
Creek Drive, Galloway, Ohio, called at 6:00 p.m. on
Monday, July 19, 2021.

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On behalf of the Applicant.

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On behalf of Prairie and Pleasant
Townships.

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By Ms. Kimberly W. Bojko
and Mr. Jonathan B. Wygonski
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On behalf of No Prairie Solar, LLC.

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Monday Evening Session,
July 19, 2021.

- - -

ALJ AGRANOFF: We will go on the record
at this time.

The Ohio Power Siting Board has scheduled
for public hearing at this time and place Case No.
20-1679-EL-BGN which is captioned In the Matter of
the Application of Pleasant Prairie Solar Energy for
a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and
Public Need to Construct a Solar-Powered Electric
Generation Facility in Franklin County, Ohio.

My name is Jay Agranoff. With me is
David Hicks. And we are the Administrative Law
Judges assigned to hear this case on behalf of the
Board. Also with us is Jenifer French, the Chair of
the Ohio Power Siting Board.

Chair French, would you like to make any
opening comments at this time?

CHAIR FRENCH: Sure, briefly. My kids
would say I don't need a microphone, but we are going
to use it anyway.

Hello, everyone. Welcome tonight. You
know, we have the process that's outlined for you on
the sheet or on the board out there and this is why

1 we have it. Because this is an amazing turnout and
2 this is only my second public hearing so I don't have
3 a whole lot to compare it to but this makes me
4 really, really happy because I am here, we are all
5 here to listen to everything that all of you who wish
6 to speak have to say, and even those that don't wish
7 to speak. You're here, right, because you care about
8 the place which you live.

9 So thank you for having us. We very much
10 appreciate it, and I look forward to hearing about
11 you that signed up.

12 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you very much, Chair
13 French.

14 We also have Board Staff members that are
15 present this evening, and I believe most of them are
16 wearing shirts that say either the Ohio Power Siting
17 Board or the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.
18 And if you would like to ask, as I mentioned before,
19 any questions of them, I will identify who those
20 individuals are. We have Mr. Matt Schilling,
21 Ms. Brittany Waugaman, Mr. Scott Elisar, and
22 Mr. Grant Zeto.

23 And the Board Staff is available to
24 explain any questions regarding the Board's process,
25 access Pleasant Prairie's application, or any other

documents submitted in this case on the Board's website. Additionally, they would be more than happy to answer any questions you might have about general matters concerning your utility service.

If you have any questions about the application in this case, as we mentioned previously, Pleasant Prairie representatives are available as well to answer your questions about the proposed project.

I would also note that there were a number of entities and individuals who have been granted intervention in this case. These include governmental entities, the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks and the Ohio Farm Bureau.

There's also a pending Motion to Intervene filed by an entity known as No Prairie Solar which was filed on behalf of the individuals who own property nearby or adjacent to the proposed project.

The adjudicatory hearing in this matter is scheduled to commence on August 16, 2021, at the Board's offices in Columbus at the evidentiary hearing. The parties in this case will offer the testimony of their witnesses, present evidence, and

1 cross-examine the witnesses of other parties.

2 In this case the Applicant Pleasant
3 Prairie Solar seeks a Certificate of Environmental
4 Compatibility and Public Need to Construct and
5 Operate a Solar-Powered Electric Generation Facility
6 in Franklin County for up to 250 megawatts. The
7 project area will be located in Pleasant and Prairie
8 Townships, Franklin County, and will occupy
9 approximately 1,729 acres.

10 Pleasant Prairie's Application was filed
11 on February 19, 2021. The Board's Staff filed a
12 Report of Investigation on July 1, 2021. The report
13 is only a recommendation and does not necessarily
14 reflect what the Board's final determination in this
15 case will be.

16 If approved, the Applicant anticipates
17 that the construction would begin in the first
18 quarter of 2022, and commercial operation would
19 commence in the fourth quarter of 2023.

20 The purpose of today's public hearing is
21 limited to receiving comments from the public
22 specific to Pleasant Prairie's Application to
23 construct its proposed solar farm project. We
24 emphasize this is your opportunity to let the Board
25 know how you will be affected if the proposed project

1 is constructed and your opinion about Pleasant
2 Prairie's Application.

3 Any questions you have about the project,
4 the Application, or the Board process should be
5 addressed through the Board's Staff or Pleasant
6 Prairie's representatives prior to offering your
7 testimony.

8 The hearing's being transcribed by a
9 court reporter. She's located right over there to my
10 right. Please verbalize all your responses and speak
11 clearly so that the court reporter can accurately
12 reflect your testimony.

13 The intervening parties in this matter
14 are as follows: The Board of Park Commissioners of
15 the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park
16 District, Pleasant Township, Prairie Township, and
17 the Ohio Farm Bureau. The Board Staff is also a
18 party to this case.

19 Additionally, as stated previously, there
20 is the pending motion seeking intervention on behalf
21 of No Prairie Solar, LLC. As I mentioned before,
22 counsel should situate themselves in the front row so
23 that it will be easier for them to ask any questions
24 of a witness.

25 Also if anyone has prepared a written

statement, it would be helpful if you provide a copy to the court reporter for reference to ensure that the transcript is accurate. Please make sure that your name is clearly marked on any submitted attachments to your testimony so that the record can be accurate.

If you have any written comments from others who are not able to attend or who did not -- who do not wish to offer their testimony, you may present the comments to myself, Mr. Hicks, or any member of the Board Staff to be included in the comment section of the case docket in this matter.

Additionally, if you do not wish to testify or if you believe that your testimony would be duplicative of the testimony of others, there are sheets at the information table out front which you can sign when you first entered. There is one sheet if you were in support of the Application and one sheet if you were in opposition of the Application.

Witnesses will be called forward in the order in which they were signed up. We will call the name of the upcoming witness who is on deck so that you will be prepared to testify when your name is called. The first person whose name is called should come forward to the podium up front, and the next

1 person should try to situate themselves. If you are
2 in the back, come a little bit forward so when we
3 call your name, that there won't be too much of a
4 time delay in getting to the next testimony.

5 Before you present your testimony, either
6 myself or Mr. Hicks will ask you to take an oath or
7 an affirmation that your testimony that you are about
8 to give is the truth based on your own personal
9 knowledge. You will also be asked to state and spell
10 your name and provide your address for the record.
11 You will also be asked to identify the township in
12 which you reside and if you live and/or work within
13 the proposed project area. Your testimony will be
14 considered part of the record in this case and will
15 be available to be reviewed by the Board in
16 consideration of its decision on Pleasant Prairie's
17 Application.

18 Additionally, counsel for Pleasant
19 Prairie and the other entities in the case that are
20 present, as well as myself, Mr. Hicks, or Chair
21 French may ask you questions about your testimony.
22 We will also ask collectively if counsel for any of
23 the entities in this case have any cross-examination
24 for you. If we do not hear from one of the counsel
25 identifying that they have specific questions, we

1 will assume that you are waiving your
2 cross-examination of that specific witness.

3 Once you finish testifying or if you are
4 just here to observe, you may leave at any time. We
5 ask that you leave quietly so that you are not
6 disturbing any of the other witnesses in this
7 proceeding.

8 We also ask that the audience and each
9 witness be considerate of one another and that the
10 witnesses keep your statements to approximately no
11 more than 5 minutes in length. This will assure we
12 will be able to get to as many individuals as
13 possible who wish to provide testimony in this
14 proceeding.

15 Also, I would also ask that you be
16 respectful and not speak out loud while other
17 individuals are testifying.

18 Additionally, if there are any members of
19 the media that are in attendance today, if you could
20 please make sure that you identify yourself to one of
21 the Staff members here with the Board so that we can
22 make sure that your name is included on the service
23 list for any press releases that may be issued
24 relative to this case.

25 Are there any additional questions based

1 on anything that I may have said at this point?

2 Yes, sir.

3 MR. WEAVER: You said the media. Are
4 there any that are here that can announce that
5 publicly?

6 ALJ AGRANOFF: I didn't.

7 MR. WEAVER: You said if there are any
8 media to let you know. Is any of them able to
9 announce publicly that they are here?

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: I don't think that would
11 be necessary. I think that simply make sure that we
12 have your contact information that we will then be
13 able to assure that you will be notified of anything
14 that may be released relative to this case.

15 MR. WEAVER: I can ask additional
16 questions before my testimony, right?

17 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any questions that you
18 might have I would prefer that those be done off the
19 record before you testify so that you can get
20 information that you may need for purposes of
21 formulating your testimony.

22 If you have other questions that you
23 might have relative to this case, you are certainly
24 free to speak to any of the Board Staff members and
25 get those answers, but I would prefer not to have a

1 question and answer period while we are on the
2 record.

3 MR. WEAVER: I just have three questions
4 I need to verify before I give my testimony so I can
5 acknowledge that it is true.

6 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. I understand. And
7 in that respect if one of our Staff members, either
8 Brittany Waugaman or Matt Schilling, could be of some
9 assistance.

10 MR. BUTLER: Okay.

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any other questions?

12 Okay. If not, then at this point in time
13 we're going to begin to take the appearances of the
14 parties in this case. On behalf of the Applicant.

15 MS. PIRIK: Thank you, your Honor. On
16 behalf of the Applicant Pleasant Prairie Solar
17 Energy, LLC, the law firm of Dickinson Wright by
18 Christine Pirik, Terrence O'Donnell, Matthew
19 O'Donnell, 150 East Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Is counsel for
21 the Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and
22 Franklin County Metropolitan Park District in
23 attendance?

24 Is counsel for Pleasant Township and
25 Prairie Township in attendance?

1 MS. HUBER: I am, your Honor. Thank you.
 2 Jennifer Huber of the law firm Brosius, Johnson &
 3 Griggs, 1600 Dublin Road, Suite 100, Columbus, 43215.
 4 On behalf of the Pleasant and Prairie Townships.

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

6 MS. HUBER: Thank you.

7 ALJ AGRANOFF: Is counsel for the Ohio
 8 Farm Bureau Federation in attendance?

9 Is counsel for the Board Staff in
 10 attendance?

11 And as I noted previously, we do have a
 12 pending motion for intervention that was filed by No
 13 Prairie Solar. Is there counsel in attendance?

14 MS. BOJKO: Thank you, your Honor. On
 15 behalf of No Prairie Solar, LLC, Kimberly W. Bojko
 16 and Jon Wygonski of the law firm Carpenter Lipps &
 17 Leland, 280 North High Street, Suite 1300, Columbus,
 18 Ohio 43215.

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And at this
 20 time we will now begin with the calling of the
 21 witnesses.

22 MS. PIRIK: Your Honor, could I just make
 23 one note?

24 ALJ AGRANOFF: Certainly.

25 MS. PIRIK: I just want to note for the

1 record we understand the purpose of this hearing. We
 2 understand that local comments are very important,
 3 and the Company is very interested in hearing what
 4 everyone has to say. But we also understand that
 5 with Intervenor in the case precedent has been with
 6 the Ohio Power Siting Board that if you are an
 7 Intervenor in the case or you are a member of the
 8 group that is being represented as an Intervenor in
 9 the case, that you typically are not allowed to
 10 testify at a local hearing. That the Applicant's
 11 opportunity and your opportunity to testify would be
 12 at the evidentiary hearing which you mentioned is in
 13 August. That provides the Applicant due process.

14 I know you mentioned that if you don't
 15 cross-examine the witnesses at this hearing, that we
 16 would be waiving our opportunity for
 17 cross-examination. However, we wanted to note for
 18 the record that the opportunity for any Intervenor
 19 or members of groups that are Intervenor would, per
 20 past precedent, be held at the evidentiary hearing to
 21 give us that due process opportunity. So we just
 22 wanted to note that for the record.

23 We want the testimony to go forward today
 24 without our objection and allow witnesses to testify,
 25 but we would propose that those who are Intervenor

1 in the case provide their testimony at the
2 evidentiary hearing.

3 MS. BOJKO: Your Honor, if I may respond.
4 First of all, on behalf of the No Prairie Solar our
5 intervention has not been granted yet so there is a
6 possibility, and obviously we'll argue prejudice and
7 otherwise if it comes to that, but we were not given
8 notice of whether intervention was granted or not
9 granted at this time, so in order to afford people
10 due process, they should be entitled to speak at the
11 public hearing. And actually we have precedent that
12 the exact opposite of what Ms. Pirik spoke about that
13 says members of associations that have been granted
14 intervention status can and should be able to testify
15 at the local public hearing and have in the past.
16 And the most recent case was Suburban Natural Gas
17 Company's local public hearing. There are many
18 others that were listed in our Reply Memorandum that
19 we were required to file on Friday in advance of this
20 hearing in hopes of getting that issue resolved
21 before today.

22 But we do not intend to duplicate
23 testimony either. We understand your point and the
24 need for everybody to be heard but that does not mean
25 that I can say no one will testify given that we do

1 not know the status of our intervention and knowing
2 that we do not know who can or will be able to
3 testify at the evidentiary hearing given the lack of
4 ruling that we have before us today.

5 So we don't intend for 75 people to
6 testify today, but I'm also not going to say that
7 they cannot testify if they want their voice to be
8 heard, and I hope that that request is honored by the
9 Bench.

10 MS. PIRIK: Thank you. Just one more
11 thing. We would just like to reserve our right
12 because we do understand what Ms. Bojko is saying.
13 Because the motion has not been ruled on yet we just
14 want to reserve our right to cross-examine any member
15 that is once determined to be a member of -- if they
16 are granted intervention, we want to reserve the
17 right to cross-examine them at the evidentiary
18 hearing.

19 MS. BOJKO: Sorry, your Honor. I don't
20 know what that means because if we have a witness
21 here today that's going to testify, they know that
22 they are subject to cross-examination. We don't have
23 our witness list before you yet. We haven't even
24 been granted intervention status, so I don't know
25 whether those people will also be in attendance at

1 the evidentiary hearing. So, you know, it would be
2 an unfair prejudice to say she reserves her right.
3 This is the opportunity, as we have done in every
4 public hearing, to cross the witness speaking. If
5 not, that -- that right is waived.

6 ALJ AGRANOFF: Your points are so noted,
7 and we will be calling the witnesses as they are
8 identified on the sign-up sheets. And at this point
9 in time, we are going to move forward with calling
10 our first witness, and I will now turn the microphone
11 over to Judge Hicks.

12 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Thank you. And as
13 Judge Agranoff said, I'm going to call the first
14 witness, give an on deck. As I said, we only have
15 one mic, so I may try to just yell at you all and
16 leave the mic up there for the sake of everyone being
17 able to do this smoothly. So if you can't hear me,
18 just yell at me, waive your arms, or something, and
19 we'll get it done.

20 So right now the first witness that I
21 would call is Cathy Cowan Becker, and it will be
22 Anthony Sasson on deck. If I mispronounce your name,
23 I also apologize in advance for that.

24 ALJ AGRANOFF: One other point that I
25 would like to make. If you please could make sure

1 that your cell phones are on mute so that we do not
2 have any interruptions due to a cell phone, I would
3 appreciate that. Thank you.

4 ALJ HICKS: If you could please raise
5 your right hand.

6 (Witness sworn.)

7 ALJ HICKS: Could you please state and
8 spell your name for the record.

9 MS. BECKER: Cathy Cowan Becker,
10 C-A-T-H-Y C-O-W-A-N B-E-C-K-E-R.

11 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And could you please
12 provide your address along with the township.

13 MS. BECKER: 4275 White Spruce Lane,
14 Grove City, Ohio. It's in Columbus Ward 79. I am
15 the elected representative from there to the
16 Democratic Senate Committee. I am also a Westland
17 Committee Commissioner.

18 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Do you live or work
19 within the project area?

20 MS. BECKER: Right immediately adjacent
21 to it.

22 CHAIR FRENCH: That microphone should pop
23 out of there if you don't want to hold that whole
24 thing. There we go. Thank you.

25 MS. BECKER: Okay. Chair French and

1 members of the Ohio Power Siting Board, thank you for
2 the opportunity to testify tonight. My name is Cathy
3 Cowan Becker. I'm chair of Ready for 100 in Ohio, a
4 campaign of the Sierra Club to ask cities to commit
5 to 100 percent renewable energy. And I am also
6 executive director of Simply Leaving.

7 ALJ AGRANOFF: Slow down. Slow down.

8 MS. BECKER: Okay. A Columbus nonprofit
9 that promotes the sustainability, environmental
10 awareness, and our local economy. And I am also a
11 member of the sustainability committees for both
12 Columbus and Grove City.

13 So that's a lot of titles, but at heart I
14 am a climate activist, as well as a neighbor of the
15 Pleasant Prairie project. And in all of these
16 capacities, I strongly support this project.

17 As a climate activist, I am used to
18 reading bad news about storms, droughts, floods,
19 heatwaves, and melting ice. But with increasing
20 frequency a climate story crosses my desk that turns
21 my stomach. Last week was such a story of over
22 1 million sea creatures literally cooked to death by
23 the heatwave in the Pacific Northwest.

24 So I bring this up because the Big Darby
25 Creek, near the project site, is home to 44 species

1 of mussels, some of which are rare or endangered.
 2 And during my local conversations about the Pleasant
 3 Prairie project, I have rarely heard anyone mention
 4 the effects of the climate crisis.

5 Yet if left unchecked, the climate crisis
 6 will do more damage to the Darby Creek and the
 7 creatures that live in it than this solar project
 8 could possibly do. I hope you as members of the Ohio
 9 Power Siting Board will keep in mind the urgency of
 10 the climate crisis when making your decisions about
 11 renewable energy projects in Ohio which is the sixth
 12 highest carbon-emitting state.

13 So I became a climate activist first
 14 because of the enormous gulf between what the science
 15 says must be done and what we are actually doing to
 16 safeguard our health and environment.

17 In 2017, I started Columbus Ready for 100
 18 campaign. And with the help of other volunteers, we
 19 organized and led dozens of meetings and events,
 20 tabled at community festivals, held neighborhood
 21 dialogues, and collected over 5,000 signatures on our
 22 petition asking the city of Columbus to commit to 100
 23 percent renewable energy.

24 One major step we see for cities in Ohio
 25 to reach this goal is electric aggregation for

1 100 percent renewable energy. And we began talking
2 to the City of Columbus about this years ago.

3 Cincinnati has long been aggravated for
4 100 percent renewable, and Worthington did this in
5 2018. But these cities' programs were at first based
6 on renewable energy certificates. These certificates
7 aren't bad. They support the growth of renewable
8 energy overall and bring down the cost for everyone.
9 But they are not the same as generating renewable
10 energy at home. They send our money out of state
11 instead of investing in our local community.

12 So for that reason, Ready for 100 asked
13 the City of Columbus not just to pursue aggregation
14 for 100 percent renewable energy but also commit to
15 seeking local sources of renewable energy through
16 construction of renewable energy projects here in
17 Ohio and preferably in central Ohio.

18 And that's exactly what Columbus did as
19 well as Grove City. Last year both cities put
20 electric aggregation for 100 percent renewable energy
21 on their ballots, and both initiatives passed by a
22 landslide committing these cities to 100 percent
23 renewable energy generated here in Ohio.

24 So the Pleasant Prairie solar project is
25 the perfect example of such a local clean energy

1 project. Because of its location near Battelle Darby
2 Creek Metro Park, where I visit at least weekly, I
3 wanted to make sure the developer is adhering to
4 strong environmental practices.

5 Through several conversations with
6 project staff, I learned Invenergy plans to plant
7 diverse native vegetation throughout the site, use
8 wildlife friendly fencing, increase setbacks and
9 screening, use anti-glare coating on solar panels,
10 and leave the land in as good or better condition
11 than it started in decommissioning.

12 I've been impressed with the extent of
13 public outreach that Invenergy has done to hundreds
14 of neighbors in the project area. They've also met
15 with numerous local officials, government agencies,
16 and community groups. And because of input from
17 these conversations, they changed some of their
18 project plans.

19 For those who have not seen Invenergy's
20 Application, I urge them to go to the case documents.
21 The Application consists of thousands of pages in 25
22 parts covering all sorts of environmental, economic,
23 and social considerations.

24 So the environmental benefits of the
25 Pleasant Prairie solar project are clear. If

1 approved, this project will generate enough
2 electricity to supply almost 50,000 homes and reduce
3 carbon emissions equivalent to taking 54,000 cars off
4 the road.

5 According to EPA, moving to this much
6 clean energy would lower our health care costs by
7 \$75 million resulting in 8 fewer deaths, 233 fewer
8 cases of breathing illnesses, and over 2,300 fewer
9 missed school days.

10 The Pleasant Prairie project is also an
11 investment in our local economy. It would create 800
12 construction jobs, 4 full-time operations jobs. And
13 the developers would pay millions of dollars each
14 year in taxes to county and township governments to
15 support schools, libraries, and emergency services.

16 So for all of these reasons, I strongly
17 support this project and urge you as members of the
18 Ohio Power Siting Board to approve it.

19 So thank you again for the opportunity to
20 testify. I am happy to try to answer any questions.

21 ALJ HICKS: Thank you for your testimony.

22 I will ask, Judge Agranoff, if you have
23 any questions.

24 ALJ AGRANOFF: No questions.

25 ALJ HICKS: Chair French?

1 CHAIR FRENCH: I don't have any
2 questions.

3 ALJ HICKS: Applicant?

4 MS. PIRIK: No questions, your Honor.

5 ALJ HICKS: Either of the Intervenors
6 have any questions?

7 MS. HUBER: No questions.

8 ALJ HICKS: Thank you for your time and
9 for your testimony.

10 Anthony Sasson is up next, and Mike Morey
11 will be on deck.

12 If you could please raise your right
13 hand, sir.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 ALJ HICKS: Could you please state and
16 spell your name for the record.

17 MR. SASSON: My name is Anthony Sasson,
18 S-A-S-S-O-N.

19 ALJ HICKS: Could you please provide your
20 address along with township.

21 MR. SASSON: My address is 8351 Patterson
22 Road, Hilliard, Brown Township.

23 ALJ HICKS: And do you live or work
24 within the project area?

25 MR. SASSON: No.

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

3 MR. SASSON: Good evening. My name is
4 Anthony Sasson. Along with Charlie Staudt, also in
5 attendance, I am representing the Darby Creek
6 Association. The DCA is a volunteer organization
7 that has existed since 1972 with the purpose of
8 protecting the National Scenic River Big Darby Creek
9 and the outstanding natural environment in the
10 watershed.

11 This proposed Pleasant Prairie solar
12 facility represents a significant threat to that
13 environment and the quality of the Battelle Darby
14 Creek Metro Park, one of central Ohio's best
15 attractions, with 1.3 million visits in 2020. While
16 we like solar energy and abhor climate change, Ohio
17 can do two things at once. We must protect and
18 improve the local environment while reducing
19 emissions. We hope environmental advocates will
20 agree.

21 Also, we are not asking for a facility
22 that is just better than agriculture. We are asking
23 for a commitment to a greener solar facility that is
24 appropriate and adequate for the setting. That
25 effort should go significantly beyond compliance and

1 recognize the public support for the Metro Parks and
2 the 50 year plus effort that has gone into protecting
3 and enhancing this outstanding natural environment.
4 Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park is the revered center
5 of that protection effort.

6 The proposed facility has a significant
7 footprint immediately adjacent to Battelle Darby
8 Creek Metro Park or within sight of the park,
9 including from busy roads such as U.S. 40 and Darby
10 Creek Drive leading to and near park entrances, and
11 from the Darby Creek Greenway trail. Negative
12 impacts from the proposed facility need to be reduced
13 and this park must be protected well beyond
14 compliance with minimum requirements.

15 It is DCA's position that this facility's
16 application to the Ohio Power Siting Board and the
17 recommended conditions of certificate in the Staff
18 Report of July 1, 2021, are not adequate to protect
19 the Battelle Darby Metro Park, such as, but not
20 limited to, its aesthetics and visitor experience,
21 its wildlife, and its vegetation.

22 We ask that the comments provided in the
23 full version of DCA's statement dated today, and
24 DCA's previous comments to the Ohio Power Siting
25 Board, including those of July 1 and others, be fully

1 addressed before certification is granted.

2 Importantly, we request that all of the
3 issues in Metro Parks' petition for leave to
4 intervene be fully addressed to the satisfaction of
5 Metro Parks.

6 A summary of our specific comments:
7 Concerning inadequate communication, the Application
8 and Staff Report lack written documentation, to our
9 knowledge, that the Applicant has had substantive,
10 significant communication and coordination with Metro
11 Parks.

12 Concerning the aesthetic impacts and
13 setbacks, we agree with Metro Parks' petition that
14 the proposed setbacks between the project and the
15 park are too short to protect the park.

16 Concerning fencing, it is unclear what is
17 meant in the OPSB Staff Report. To be clear, a
18 wildlife-friendly or wildlife-permeable fence must
19 have openings large enough near the ground to be
20 passable by mammalian predators.

21 Concerning invasive species management,
22 the recommended conditions of the Staff Report and
23 Application need much more attention to invasive
24 species management which threatens the integrity of
25 adjacent habitats at Battelle Darby Metro Park.

Concerning the ability of Metro Parks to conduct controlled burns, the Application and the Staff Report should address any requirements related to a solar facility that might threaten to limit or eliminate controlled burns at Battelle Darby Metro Park adjacent to the facility.

Concerning the loss of Darby Plains prairie species genotype, if the proposed facility plants non-Darby Plains genotype vegetation, the Darby Plains prairie genotype will be lost in adjacent Battelle Darby Metro Park.

Concerning planting, only Darby Plains species, the Staff Report and Application imply that plant species not native to Darby Plains could be planted. Instead, only species native to Darby Plains should be planted and maintained.

Concerning unidentified wetlands, the Application and Report have not addressed certain wetlands that should be protected.

Concerning wetland buffers, the proposed facility's proposed wetland buffers are not adequate.

Concerning a trail, the proposed facility should ensure, to Metro Parks' satisfaction, a trail connection to conservation land to the east.

Concerning stream buffers, the project

1 should maximize the width and vegetation quality of
2 extreme buffers and avoid mowing.

3 Concerning hydrology, the proposed
4 facility could considerably improve hydrology related
5 to stream health in the Big Darby Creek watershed by
6 maximizing groundwater recharge.

7 Concerning monitoring, the Applicant
8 should establish an adequate fund for continuous
9 monitoring of biological conditions within the
10 facility, on adjacent Metro Parks' land, and other
11 sites.

12 In summary, the siting of this facility
13 in the Big Darby Creek watershed deserves greater
14 protection of the local environment than proposed.
15 We ask for conditions and a commitment to a greener
16 solar facility that is appropriate for the setting,
17 significantly beyond compliance and meets the
18 concerns of Metro Parks in its petition for leave to
19 intervene. Those conditions must protect Battelle
20 Darby Creek Metro Park; DCA is not satisfied that
21 they do so now.

22 Thank you very much for your attention.

23 ALJ HICKS: Any questions from Judge
24 Agranoff or Chair French? Questions from the
25 Applicant?

1 MS. PIRIK: No.

2 ALJ HICKS: Questions from either of the
3 Intervenors?

4 MS. HUBER: No, your Honor.

5 ALJ HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Sasson, for
6 your time.

7 Mike Morey is up next, and we have on
8 deck Joe Stahl.

9 Mr. Morey, if you could please raise your
10 right hand.

11 (Witness sworn.)

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

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

16 ALJ HICKS: Okay. If you could please
17 give us your address along with the township.

18 MR. MOREY: 602 Frazier Road North,
19 Columbus, Ohio 43207. That is in Hamilton Township.

20 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And do you live or
21 work within the project area?

22 MR. MOREY: We represent -- the IBEW
23 represents workers in the areas of Franklin County.

24 ALJ HICKS: Okay.

25 ALJ AGRANOFF: Just so the record is

1 clear, you used an acronym. If you could tell us
2 what that acronym stood for.

3 MR. MOREY: International Brotherhood of
4 Electrical Workers.

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

6 ALJ HICKS: Are you all able to hear? I
7 don't know if the mic is picking you up. You may
8 have to hold it.

9 MR. MOREY: Is that better?

10 ALJ HICKS: Go ahead.

11 MR. MOREY: Thank you for allowing me the
12 opportunity to speak this evening. Once again, my
13 name is Mike Morey. I am a member and business
14 representative of the International Brotherhood of
15 Electrical Workers Local 683. Local 683 represents
16 electrical workers that live and work in the central
17 Ohio area including the proposed Pleasant Prairie
18 site in Franklin County.

19 IBEW Local 683 strongly supports the
20 approval of this project. Approval of this project
21 would be beneficial to the residents of Ohio in many
22 ways. While increasing tax revenues for local
23 schools and municipalities, the project would provide
24 jobs for local residents. Providing diversity in
25 energy generation in Ohio is a favorable benefit

1 aiding to decrease the pollution created by other
2 sources of power generation. Pleasant Prairie Solar
3 would make clean energy available for the residents
4 and businesses in Ohio.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 ALJ HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Morey. Judge
7 Agranoff, any questions? That's a no from Chair
8 French. Applicant?

9 MS. PIRIK: No questions.

10 ALJ HICKS: Any questions from either of
11 the Intervenors?

12 Okay. Mr. Morey, thank you for your
13 time.

14 Up next is Joe Stahl and on deck is
15 Dorsey Hager.

16 MR. STAHL: Good evening.

17 ALJ HICKS: Good evening. If you could
18 please raise your right hand.

19 (Witness sworn.)

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

22 MR. STAHL: My name is Joe Stahl,
23 S-T-A-H-L.

24 ALJ HICKS: And if you could please give
25 us your address including the township.

1 MR. STAHL: 8542 Canyon Cove Road,
2 Galloway, Ohio 43119 and that's Prairie Township.

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

5 MR. STAHL: Yes, I do.

6 ALJ HICKS: Please go ahead with your
7 statement.

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: Sir, for clarification,
9 you said that, yes, you do. Do you live and work?

10 MR. STAHL: I live, yeah, and I work,
11 just depends on which job assignments. I'm an
12 electrician, so I work in various places.

13 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. STAHL: Good evening. My name is Joe
15 Stahl. I am a member of the National Brotherhood of
16 Electrical Workers 683. I live very close to where
17 the -- excuse me, Pleasant Prairie solar project will
18 be constructed.

19 I speak tonight in support of the
20 construction jobs this project will bring to the
21 community. The hundreds of jobs that will be created
22 during the construction phase of this project are
23 critical for our community. It is my hope that these
24 jobs will be good jobs, union jobs. Utilities --
25 utility -- excuse me. Utility-scale solar projects,

1 like Prairie Pleasant -- Prairie Town -- excuse me.
 2 Prairie Township. Throat. The Pleasant Prairie will
 3 bring with them the opportunity for life-long careers
 4 in the construction field.

5 I can speak from experience that my
 6 career as an electrician with Local 683 has provided
 7 for my family and allowed me to live comfortably in
 8 this community. Again, I speak tonight in full
 9 support of the project, and I am excited about the
 10 project and the jobs it will bring to our area.

11 Thank you for your time.

12 ALJ HICKS: Judge Agranoff, any
 13 questions? Chair French?

14 CHAIR FRENCH: No.

15 ALJ HICKS: Any questions from the
 16 Applicant? Any from either of the Intervenors?

17 MS. BOJKO: No, your Honor.

18 ALJ HICKS: Thank you for your time.

19 MR. STAHL: Thank you.

20 ALJ HICKS: Our next witness is here.
 21 Patrick Hook, you are on deck. If you could please
 22 raise your right hand.

23 (Witness sworn.)

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

1 MR. HAGER: Dorsey Hager, D-O-R-S-E-Y
2 H-A-G-E-R.

3 ALJ HICKS: And if you could please give
4 us your address including township.

5 MR. HAGER: 20590 Collins Road, Milford
6 Center, Ohio 43045. And that's Allen Township.

7 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And do you live or
8 work within the proposed project area?

9 MR. HAGER: I do not live, but I
10 represent members and contractors within the
11 jurisdiction.

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

14 MR. HAGER: My name is Dorsey Hager, and
15 I am the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the
16 Columbus and Central Ohio Building & Construction
17 Trades Council. The Columbus Building Trades
18 represents 18,000 highly skilled trades people in
19 Columbus and Central Ohio.

20 And I respectfully stand before you today
21 to offer my support for the Pleasant Prairie solar
22 project here in Franklin County.

23 Solar farms are environmentally friendly.
24 Capturing the sun's energy to generate electricity,
25 they feed into local and regional power grids. And

1 in and of themselves, they release no harmful
2 atmospheric emissions which is good news for the
3 climate.

4 Solar farms are sustainable. Regular
5 consumers of electricity like to know that its power
6 source will be available not only today but well into
7 the future. Solar farms produce energy by using
8 sunshine that renews itself every day.

9 And solar farms are quiet and efficient.

10 This project will not only provide clean
11 energy to the residents of Ohio but also well paying
12 building trades jobs to Franklin County residents
13 that pay top wages and benefits. Electricians,
14 ironworkers, sheet metal workers, laborers, cement
15 masons, and operating engineers, just to name a few
16 of the trades that will build and maintain this
17 project. All building trades' members earn good
18 wages with health and retirement benefits so they can
19 provide a solid middle class living for themselves
20 and their families when their career is over so they
21 can retire comfortably with dignity and respect.

22 Again, the Columbus Building Trades fully
23 supports this and all solar projects within the State
24 of Ohio. Thank you for your time.

25 ALJ HICKS: Thank you. We have no

1 questions from the Bench. Any questions from the
2 Applicant or any questions from either Intervenor?

3 MS. BOJKO: No, your Honor.

4 MS. HUBER: No.

5 ALJ HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Hager.

6 Up next is Patrick Hook. And on deck is
7 Scott Newbury.

8 MR. HOOK: Hello.

9 ALJ HICKS: Good evening. If you could
10 please raise your right hand.

11 (Witness sworn.)

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

14 MR. HOOK: Patrick Hook, H-O-O-K.

15 ALJ HICKS: And if could you please give
16 your address along with the township.

17 MR. HOOK: 1502 Glenn Avenue, Columbus,
18 Ohio 43212. And that's in Franklin Township.

19 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And do you live or
20 work within the project area?

21 MR. HOOK: I work within the project
22 area.

23 ALJ HICKS: Please go ahead with your
24 testimony.

25 MR. HOOK: Good evening. My name is

1 Patrick Hook. I'm the business manager and a
 2 long-time member of the International Brotherhood of
 3 Electrical Workers Local 683. Local 683 represents
 4 over 2,000 highly skilled electrical workers in the
 5 central Ohio area. Local 683 members have and
 6 continue to work in many industries in and around
 7 Franklin County from the new Crew stadium, large data
 8 centers, hospitals, and many OSU projects to small
 9 residential service calls who are now excited to be
 10 part of the solar development in this area.

11 IBEW 683 is eager to see the transition
 12 from coal generation to the generation with lower or
 13 no carbon emissions such as solar. Rural areas with
 14 vast farmland are particularly suited to be a great
 15 area for this project.

16 I speak in complete support for the jobs
 17 that the Pleasant Prairie project will provide. The
 18 hundreds of direct jobs will have a lasting impact on
 19 our area. I know IBEW stands ready to provide the
 20 workers necessary to complete the project in a safe,
 21 timely manner.

22 It is also our intention, if given the
 23 opportunity, these jobs will become life-long careers
 24 in the electrical industry, good paying, steady jobs
 25 with benefits, jobs this entire area is in need of.

1 Thank you for your time this evening. I
2 look forward to working with the Pleasant Prairie
3 project and the Ohio Power Siting Board providing any
4 information I could to ensure this project moves
5 forward.

6 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

7 Any questions from the Bench?

8 CHAIR FRENCH: No.

9 ALJ HICKS: Any questions from the
10 Applicant? Any questions from the Intervenors?

11 MS. HUBER: No, your Honor.

12 ALJ HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Hook.

13 Scott Newbury is up now, and Brian Weaver
14 is on deck.

15 ALJ AGRANOFF: Before we get to the
16 testimony, I would point out we do have an empty
17 chair here. I see somebody sitting on the floor. If
18 you would like a chair, there is one available.

19 MR. WEAVER: I was wondering if I could
20 sit there so I could read his lips.

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: Oh, certainly.
22 Absolutely.

23 MR. WEAVER: Take my seat, ma'am.

24 ALJ HICKS: If you can just raise your
25 right hand.

1 (Witness sworn.)

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

4 MR. NEWBURY: My name is Scott Newbury,
5 N-E-W-B-U-R-Y.

6 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And if you could
7 please provide your address including township.

8 MR. NEWBURY: 966 Murnan Road. That's
9 Prairie Township.

10 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And do you live or
11 work in the project area?

12 MR. NEWBURY: Both.

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

15 MR. NEWBURY: Good evening. My name is
16 Scott Newbury with No Prairie Solar, LLC. No Prairie
17 Solar is a large group of interested property owners,
18 including property owners who reside in or adjacent
19 to the project area. The group was formed to voice
20 our concerns about the Prairie solar project,
21 concerns which have not been and are not being raised
22 by any existing party to the proceeding.

23 Members of No Prairie Solar, LLC, have
24 raised these concerns throughout the process of this
25 project, including with the Applicant and at multiple

1 township meetings. However, it is important to note
2 that, to date, no party in this case, including the
3 township, has represented our interests and concerns.
4 As such, we were forced to organize and intervene in
5 order to make sure the Board hears our concerns.

6 We filed a timely intervention in June.
7 And pursuant to Administrative Law Judge's directive,
8 a reply in support of our intervention was filed
9 early on Friday. We firmly believe that we should be
10 granted intervention in this case and given the
11 rights as a full party of record, including, but not
12 limited to, the right to participate in the
13 evidentiary hearing.

14 However, despite the ALJ's directive to
15 file our reply early, we still have not received a
16 decision on our intervention. As such, our status as
17 a full party of record to this case remains unclear.

18 Given that we intend to participate in
19 the evidentiary hearing as a party with fact and
20 expert testimony and since we thought we would know
21 status of that timely and valid intervention by
22 tonight, we did not plan to nor want to duplicate
23 testimony here. But since we do not yet have a party
24 status and to ensure the Board knows that we have
25 concerns that need to be heard and since no other

1 party will adequately represent our concerns, I
2 wanted to provide some limited testimony tonight on
3 the record.

4 Those concerns include the placement of
5 hundreds of acres of solar panels and fences
6 surrounding 21 of the members' properties and on the
7 public roads near the members' properties is not in
8 the public interest as it will spoil the visual and
9 aesthetic enjoyment of living and working there.

10 The Application is not in the public
11 interest as it fails to provide adequate or
12 sufficiently detailed commitments for planting
13 vegetation barriers between the solar project
14 structures and equipment and members' properties to
15 minimize visual impacts.

16 The Application is not in the public
17 interest as it fails to provide vegetation barriers
18 in the setbacks within the project area and
19 neighboring properties that are sufficient to protect
20 the aesthetic enjoyment of the members' properties.
21 In addition, while the Application calls for planting
22 a minimal amount of vegetation inside and outside of
23 the project area, the Application fails to provide
24 for sufficient measures to maintain and sustain
25 healthy vegetation that will be aesthetically

pleasing and that will sufficiently create a barrier.

The Application is not in the public interest as it fails to adequately evaluate, protect against or prevent glare being observed from the solar arrays due to daily and seasonal changes.

The Application is not in the public interest as it fails to identify the specific locations for the solar panels, night lights, or other project components, leaving this important information unknown and both the Application and project plan incomplete, only to be determined at a later date subsequent to the certificate's issuance. This failure thwarts review and deprives the Board and the members of the opportunity to review the project and determine whether the components are appropriately placed, sufficiently installed, and in furtherance of the Application to determine whether the utility facility represents the minimum adverse environmental impact and will serve the public interest, convenience, necessary -- pardon me, necessity as required by RC4906.10.

For example, this would necessarily include a review of the placement of the night lights to determine whether they will contravene the public interest and have a negative impact on the property

1 owners by creating an annoyance to the members.

2 It would also include a review of the
3 placement of other project components to determine
4 whether any components will contravene the public
5 interest and have a negative impact on the property
6 owners by being placed in the line of sight from the
7 Members' lands and homes.

8 The setbacks proposed between the
9 neighboring properties, including the members'
10 properties, and the project's fences and other
11 components are too short to provide -- I'm sorry, to
12 protect the neighboring properties and not in the
13 public interest.

14 The Application is not in the public
15 interest and may have an adverse environmental impact
16 as it does not sufficiently provide for the
17 identification, protection, and repair of public
18 drainage tiles that are damaged by the project's
19 construction.

20 The Application is not in the public
21 interest and may have an adverse environmental impact
22 as it does not properly protect the existing
23 stormwater drainage patterns that protect the
24 members' land from being flooded by runoff from the
25 project area.

The Application is not in the public interest and may have an adverse environmental impact as it fails to incorporate drainage improvements previously planned for in the area by Franklin County Engineer's Office, specifically the Foley Ditch Project. This improvement is critical to health and safety of at least 10 adjacent and 7 non-adjacent property owners.

The Application is not in the public interest and may have an adverse environmental impact as it fails to adequately evaluate and protect against noise from the project's components, including, but not limited to, the inverters. In particular, the project's inverters are proposed for locations that are too close to members' homes and yards so that the inverters' humming noises will be heard at high and annoying levels.

The Application is not in the public interest and may have an adverse environmental impact as it fails to adequately evaluate and protect against noise from the project during the construction phase, including, but not limited to, pile driving and site preparation work.

The Application is not in the public interest and may have an adverse environmental impact

1 as it fails to adequately identify, mitigate, and
2 provide bonding for potential well water
3 contamination from installed systems and structures
4 related to the project.

5 The Application is not in the public
6 interest and may have an adverse environmental impact
7 as it fails to adequately evaluate, mitigate, and
8 prepare for site equipment fire and other emergency
9 events.

10 The Application is not in the public
11 interest as it fails to adequately provide financial
12 assurances, specifically bonding, for
13 decommissioning, fire, flood, tornado, or other
14 catastrophic events.

15 Finally, the Application is not in the
16 public interest as it fails to adequately evaluate
17 and address negative impact on residential property
18 values.

19 While, for the sake of efficiency, I am
20 the only member, that I am aware of, from No Prairie
21 Solar testifying tonight, I am far from the only
22 member to share these concerns. A large number of us
23 came out tonight, many wearing red, to support the
24 concerns that I just read. Will the members of No
25 Prairie Solar that share these concerns please raise

1 their hands.

2 Thank you for your time tonight.

3 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

4 Questions from Judge Agranoff? Chair
5 French?

6 CHAIR FRENCH: No questions.

7 ALJ HICKS: Questions from the Applicant?

8 MS. PIRIK: Your Honor, we don't have any
9 questions at this time, but as we stated previously,
10 we would like to reserve the right for any member of
11 No Prairie Solar, if they are granted intervention,
12 for full discovery and the opportunity to
13 cross-examine at the evidentiary hearing if that --
14 once the evidentiary hearing occurs.

15 MS. BOJKO: Your Honor, for the record we
16 would oppose any reservation of right unless the
17 witness is actually testifying at the evidentiary
18 hearing per the Commission's rules and Siting Board
19 rules.

20 ALJ HICKS: We will take both of these
21 under advisement. The purpose of tonight is to get
22 everyone's testimony that's here to testify. So we
23 will take both of your comments under advisement and
24 proceed.

25 MS. BOJKO: Thank you, your Honor.

1 ALJ HICKS: Up next is Brian Weaver and
2 on deck, and I'm probably going to butcher this name,
3 but James Scwimmer, I believe.

4 MR. WEAVER: My name is Brian Weaver.

5 ALJ HICKS: If you could please raise
6 your right hand.

7 (Witness sworn.)

8 MR. WEAVER: Everything I say is true,
9 and I will prove it.

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

12 MR. WEAVER: State what?

13 ALJ HICKS: State your name for the
14 record.

15 MR. WEAVER: My name is Brian Weaver.

16 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Could you please
17 provide your address along with the township.

18 MR. WEAVER: I'm currently in the
19 National Ohio Whistleblower Protection. I will keep
20 my address confidential, but I do reside in Pleasant
21 Township.

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

24 MR. WEAVER: I live in Pleasant Township.

25 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead with

1 your testimony.

2 MR. WEAVER: My name is Brian Weaver.
3 I'm speaking as a private citizen, not an employee.
4 I am an IT professional for the government. I have
5 been an IT professional for the past 12 years.

6 I confirmed prior to the meeting with
7 Grant Zeto that the e-mail address that they use is
8 @puco.ohio.gov. Confirmed that this is Prairie and
9 Pleasant Township. Confirmed that building permits
10 are in Prairie and Pleasant Township systems.
11 Confirmed that of the 1,700 acres approximately
12 1 percent of wooded acres will be removed.

13 As an IT professional, I can guarantee
14 you that they are not providing all public records.
15 I've been asked to delete records. I've been asked
16 to delete videos. I've been asked to delete
17 pictures. And I've been asked to delete phone calls
18 existence.

19 If you thought the Householder and PUCO
20 was corruption, it goes much deeper. What I observed
21 as an IT professional providing IT services, they
22 switched finance systems, e-mail systems, and phone
23 systems so that way you cannot see who is calling
24 who. The phone systems they switched is the mayor
25 and IT director. They are former AT&T workers. And

1 they and the IT director, former co-worker, started
2 his own company in phone -- as a local government
3 agency switching to this phone company, the phone log
4 records are no longer public record, so you can't see
5 who is calling. But I can guarantee as an IT system
6 administrator, I can see the record and the people in
7 the IT department.

8 Governor DeWine, Ohio Attorney General,
9 and several Ohio lawmakers, Congressman Steve
10 Stivers, Congressman Troy Balderson, and House of
11 Representative Lightbody, Congressman Joyce Beatty
12 are all aware of this, and media are also aware of
13 it. They are not speaking anything.

14 If you go to my website
15 makeohiogreat.com, you will hear many a meeting I
16 recorded and I've also recorded the meetings secretly
17 and I have also recorded them and asked me -- asking
18 local government officials to delete records out of
19 the system.

20 I have asked repeatedly to put in a work
21 order or e-mail because of my disability. I am
22 hearing -- hearing impaired. I am 90 percent deaf in
23 both ears. I was born at 21 -- sorry, 28 weeks, 2
24 pounds, the smallest baby that survived Children's
25 Hospital. As a result, my hearing is impaired

1 90 percent both ears.

2 I filed an ADA complaint stating that I
3 need all tasks to be in written format so I can
4 understand the task. If you go to the website, you
5 will see me where they tell me "Turn off your fucking
6 cell phone. You mother fucking deaf guy. You
7 fucking idiot." I recorded all --

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: Sir, excuse me. If you
9 could please try to not use obscenities for the
10 purposes of the record, I would appreciate that.

11 MR. WEAVER: So you're saying I can't use
12 vulgar words, right?

13 ALJ AGRANOFF: I would prefer that you
14 not.

15 MR. WEAVER: Vulgar words are here on my
16 website, and you will hear the -- you'll see a
17 meeting with the Ohio Attorney General Commissioner
18 Brad Dunn, and he said the words are acceptable. So
19 if the Ohio Attorney General said the words are
20 acceptable, then it should be acceptable here in the
21 Ohio Power Siting Board.

22 So you will see a meeting that the Ohio
23 Attorney General did not provide me an ASL
24 interpreter just like they did not provide me an ASL
25 interpreter because they do not want me to know what

1 is going on. I have been given a cease and desist
2 letter. The police have come to my house and gave me
3 a cease and desist letter. And I have also been
4 given -- banned from the Riffe and Rhodes Tower, and
5 I've also been given a no trespassing letter to the
6 schools.

7 What was happening during my time in IT,
8 as an IT professional, they were asking me to tap
9 into Milestone camera system. Milestone camera
10 system is an artificial intelligence camera system
11 that's in the schools and the local governments.
12 Milestone is -- the name of the company is Sound
13 Communication which in Grove City, Ohio, in Grove
14 City right next to Grove City City Hall. I've been
15 asked verbally to tap into the school system and City
16 Hall to monitor --

17 ALJ AGRANOFF: Sir. Mr. Weaver.

18 MR. WEAVER: You will see a shooting on
19 my website.

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: Excuse me. Mr. Weaver, if
21 you could please try to direct your testimony to the
22 proposed project.

23 MR. WEAVER: It is. I'll get to that,
24 sir. First --

25 ALJ AGRANOFF: Excuse me, sir.

1 MR. WEAVER: On our website you will see
2 a shooting video that's been deleted from the system.

3 ALJ AGRANOFF: Mr. Weaver.

4 MR. WEAVER: You will also see City View
5 which is the building permit application. That
6 relates --

7 ALJ AGRANOFF: Mr. Weaver.

8 MR. WEAVER: -- to building permits.

9 ALJ AGRANOFF: I am trying to get your
10 attention, sir. As I mentioned previously, we are
11 trying to limit for purposes of being able to get to
12 all the individuals that want to testify in this
13 proceeding about 5 minutes per person to provide --

14 MR. WEAVER: 5 minutes, okay. I'm sorry.
15 But anyway --

16 ALJ AGRANOFF: Excuse me. Mr. Weaver.

17 MR. WEAVER: You'll see the City View
18 application.

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: Mr. Weaver, so what I am
20 asking you to do is within the next 2 or 3 minutes to
21 focus on the proposed project.

22 MR. WEAVER: Okay. So regarding the
23 proposed project, if you look at IT addresses, IT
24 addresses will identify what country the e-mail and
25 network is connected to. The mayor had Plex which is

1 where you download illegal software. By downloading
2 illegal software you are opening a firewall, and IP
3 addresses will show the foreign countries that are in
4 the network. The mayor 10 years ago was City Council
5 President, and he and OSU organized the biggest
6 Chinese exchange student program in Ohio.

7 The mayor with his building department
8 records, and they had a ransomware and lost all the
9 building department inspection records in an
10 application called City View. City View is the
11 application that many building inspection records
12 use. You will also see that the same -- the same
13 application is used in Florida where we saw two
14 building collapses. I would recommend that you do a
15 public record search with anything with addresses. I
16 am an IT professional, and I was terminated from
17 Grove City.

18 You will ask what does Grove City have to
19 do with this Pleasant Township and Prairie Township?

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: Mr. Weaver.

21 MR. WEAVER: They outsource their IT
22 services to Grove City.

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: Mr. Weaver. You have 30
24 seconds.

25 MR. WEAVER: What's that?

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: You have 30 seconds.

2 MR. WEAVER: 30 seconds?

3 ALJ AGRANOFF: And then you will stop.

4 MR. WEAVER: So please go to my website
5 makeohiogreat.com and you will see where my house
6 caught on fire one day prior to being terminated.
7 Pleasant Township came to my house and did not have
8 water to put it out. And the Ohio Department -- Ohio
9 Insurance went out to investigate why Pleasant
10 Township did not have water to put the fire out. And
11 you will also see that the Ohio Fire Marshal came out
12 to investigate.

13 Please watch the video at my website
14 makeohiogreat.com and spread my website, please.
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIR FRENCH: Thank you, sir.

17 ALJ HICKS: Any questions?

18 CHAIR FRENCH: No questions.

19 ALJ HICKS: Thank you. No questions.
20 You are free to go.

21 Mr. Scwimmer.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You don't want me
23 to have the microphone after that.

24 ALJ HICKS: James Scwimmer is up next.
25 Mr. Scwimmer. Am I saying that wrong? I apologize.

1 It looks like South Front Street address, Columbus.

2 Okay. We will move on to next would be
3 Lorainne Cathala.

4 MS. CATHALA: Cathala.

5 ALJ HICKS: Cathala, I'm sorry.

6 MS. CATHALA: No problem.

7 ALJ HICKS: On deck is Frank Uhl. If you
8 could please raise your right hand.

9 (Witness sworn.)

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

12 MS. CATHALA: Lorraine Cathala,
13 L-O-R-R-A-I-N-E C-A-T-H-A-L-A. I live at 4750
14 Elliott Road, Hilliard, in Brown Township.

15 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And do you live or
16 work within the project area?

17 MS. CATHALA: I do not, but I have been a
18 frequent park visitor.

19 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Go ahead. Go ahead
20 with your testimony.

21 MS. CATHALA: So, first of all, just let
22 me say I'm really excited to see Central Ohio start
23 to pursue its 100 percent clean energy goals. I've
24 read as many of the project documents as I reasonably
25 could, and I believe the proposed plan is a good

1 start, but it still needs significant refinement,
2 specifically further protection of wildlife, the
3 Battelle Darby Metro Park, and our state and national
4 scenic river, the Big Darby Creek. Local landowners
5 and park visitors also deserve preservation of the
6 rural setting.

7 I would like to see the project proceed
8 but only after it addresses these protections and
9 those in the Metro Parks' leave to intervene
10 petition. I defer to the Metro Parks on the details
11 but here are some plan improvements that I request
12 that you consider.

13 The vegetation management plan must
14 adhere to recommendations of the Darby Creek
15 Association and the Columbus Metro Parks regarding
16 species and genotype selection and management
17 approach. Under no circumstances should non-local
18 species be introduced.

19 Wildlife friendly fencing must be used
20 and should be screened by local native plants like
21 virginia creeper. These should be used to lessen the
22 visual impact of the facility. Setbacks must be
23 sufficient to accomplish screening acceptable to the
24 Metro Parks and local residents.

25 Water management must capture runoff and

1 slowly release it into the Big Darby Creek. All
 2 existing wetlands should be retained. I assume
 3 additional artificial wetlands will need to be
 4 created. These need to be true wetlands that are
 5 beneficial to wildlife and not retention ponds. It
 6 would be great if you could allow for the
 7 construction of bird blinds and observation areas by
 8 these wetlands. Birding is one of our top national
 9 hobbies and could create additional economic impact
 10 to the area.

11 The design of the installation needs to
 12 minimize disruption to the soil such that the
 13 installation can be completely removed at the end of
 14 the useful life. This means no concrete footings, no
 15 buried infrastructure, and the fewest possible gravel
 16 surfaces.

17 I would also like you to consider writing
 18 into the permit a permanent conservation easement for
 19 the land after the facility shuts down and is evicted
 20 and includes -- include a first right of refusal
 21 clause for sale of the land to the Metro Parks.

22 I would like to see wildlife friendly or
 23 no permanent lighting.

24 Construction should be timed to avoid
 25 conflicts with nesting and migration.

1 It would also be nice to provide one
2 location with solar educational displays for park
3 visitors.

4 I would like to add one comment based on
5 the testimony of the No Prairie Solar gentleman who
6 used the phrase "not in the public good" quite
7 frequently. But I would have to say that what I
8 heard was it was not in the private good of specific
9 landowners. I think supporters of the project
10 actually agree with some of the reservations that
11 were expressed by the No Prairie Solar person, but
12 instead of just simply throwing the project out, I
13 believe that these differences can resolve
14 cooperatively with a mutually agreeable outcome.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to show my
16 support for a revised plan for this solar facility.
17 The benefits could be wonderful but only if they are
18 achieved without harm to the Big Darby watershed,
19 Battelle Darby Metro Park, wildlife, and local
20 landowners and park visitor desires for maintaining
21 the rural landscape. Let's choose to make this a
22 model project for integrating landscape scale solar
23 into a rural community while not diminishing the
24 quality of life for landowners, park visitors, and
25 wildlife.

1 Thank you.

2 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

3 Questions from the Bench? Any questions
4 from the Applicant?

5 MS. PIRIK: No questions.

6 ALJ HICKS: And from either Intervenor?
7 I am going to take that as a no.

8 Thank you.

9 Up next is Frank Uhl. And on deck is
10 Jeff Minnick.

11 MR. UHL: My name is Frank Uhl.

12 ALJ HICKS: Uhl, my apologies.

13 MR. UHL: That's all right.

14 (Witness sworn.)

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

17 MR. UHL: Frank Uhl, F-R-A-N-K U-H-L.

18 ALJ HICKS: And could you please give us
19 your address along with the township.

20 MR. UHL: I do not -- I am not a resident
21 of this area. I do -- I'm a business representative
22 for the International Union of Operating Engineers
23 Local 18. Our address is 1188 Dublin Road, Columbus,
24 Ohio 43215.

25 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Do you live or work

1 within the project area?

2 MR. UHL: Our area we work locally across
3 the state.

4 ALJ HICKS: Please go ahead with your
5 testimony.

6 MR. UHL: On behalf of Operating
7 Engineers Local Union 18, I am here to support the
8 approval of the Pleasant Prairie solar project.

9 The Operating Engineers are the
10 individuals who operate heavy equipment such as
11 bulldozers, excavators, backhoes, forklifts, and so
12 on. The roads and bridges you drove here -- to get
13 here tonight were most likely built by members of
14 Local 18 along with our fellow union tradesmen and
15 women.

16 Although we do not have an agreement
17 signed with Pleasant Prairie Solar Energy, LLC, to
18 perform the work associated with this project, we
19 believe our local signatory contractors will secure
20 this work, thus providing our membership with
21 numerous employment opportunities. In turn, high
22 paying wages, health care benefits, and
23 apprenticeship programs can continue to grow because
24 of the solar industry.

25 If approved, the Pleasant Prairie solar

1 not only create jobs but you can expect an economic
2 impact, additional tax money, and clean energy for
3 Ohio as a result of this project.

4 We encourage the Ohio Power Siting Board
5 to support the jobs of the men and women of Local 18
6 by approving the Pleasant Prairie solar. Thank you.

7 ALJ HICKS: Thank you. Any questions
8 from the Applicant? Either Intervenors?

9 MS. HUBER: No, thank you.

10 ALJ HICKS: We are going to get going
11 again. We have a lot of people signed up to speak so
12 we're just going to ask if you could -- we understand
13 everyone feels very strongly about this. If we could
14 hold applause so I can try to keep getting the
15 witnesses up and moving. Are you Mr. Minnick?

16 MR. MINNICK: Yes.

17 ALJ HICKS: I am going to hand the
18 microphone back over to you. It looks like Ed
19 Norwood is on deck. If you can just raise your right
20 hand.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 ALJ HICKS: Might want to hold it a
23 little closer.

24 MR. MINNICK: Okay.

25 ALJ HICKS: If you could just please

1 state and spell your name for the record.

2 MR. MINNICK: My name is Jeff Minnick,
3 J-E-F-F, last name M-I-N-N-I-C-K.

4 CHAIR FRENCH: Speak up.

5 ALJ HICKS: Could you please give use
6 your address along with the township.

7 MR. MINNICK: My address is 700 Murnan
8 Road. That's in Galloway, Ohio 43119.

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

11 MR. MINNICK: I live within the project.

12 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Which township?

13 MR. MINNICK: Oh, Prairie.

14 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Thank you. Please go
15 ahead with your testimony.

16 MR. MINNICK: Yeah. I'm not accustomed
17 to speaking, so I ask that you bear with me.

18 First of all, I would like to note that
19 nobody is against solar power in this room. We are
20 against the placement of solar power. We're not
21 against the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. We
22 are not against anybody else that's involved with
23 making a good living for their family. I myself am a
24 30-year union member. I understand how important
25 that is for everybody and their family.

1 But what we don't like is placement. I
2 am deathly afraid of what's going to happen with the
3 water. We all live out there and all the water, the
4 groundwater, driving these hundreds if not thousands
5 of stakes into the ground, breaking up the clay tile
6 that's there will promote flooding.

7 I understand the solar panels in their
8 present state harvesting the energy are perfectly
9 fine but do get microfractures in them after a period
10 of time. When it rains, the product in the solar
11 panels can leach out into the groundwater maybe a
12 little bit first, maybe more. There was a solar
13 panel farm, industrial solar panel farm in California
14 where a tornado went through and ripped up thousands
15 of these panels and they had little chards all over
16 the place. I can't live on Murnan Road without
17 drowning the way it is.

18 I'm an 80 percent disabled vet. I have
19 no assurances from the solar company that they are
20 going to protect my groundwater, none. We've asked
21 them. They said, yes, we'll take care of that.
22 Nothing is in writing. I would ask that if it does
23 end up coming this way, that they put down something
24 so that they test our water before they put it in and
25 test the water each year to make sure nothing is

1 leaching into the groundwater of the residents that
2 are directly involved with the industrial solar panel
3 farm being so close.

4 The other thing I would like to ask --
5 oh, housing prices will probably go down in our area.
6 Housing prices are great for everybody right now if
7 you are selling but that's not going to stand up for
8 a long time. And with a solar farm across the
9 street, the identical houses someplace else, 2,
10 3 miles away, you are going to buy the house 2,
11 3 miles away. You are not going to buy my house
12 because you have to look at an industrial solar farm
13 even with the proper barriers. It's there, and they
14 aren't going. So I would ask that that be addressed.

15 More importantly I would ask that in the
16 spirit of the recently passed Senate Bill HR52, that
17 we put on hold making any decisions until after the
18 first of the year so that the township can talk
19 sensibly and reasonably for both the citizens on
20 Murnan Road and adjacent families that are there.
21 There's no reason this -- that HR52 which had a
22 90-day waiting period, we should wait until that 90
23 days is up before anything is done. To rush into
24 this is folie for the 300 people on that road up and
25 down right there by the -- the industrial panel so.

1 Well, thank you.

2 ALJ HICKS: Thank you. Any questions
3 from the Intervenors?

4 Thank you, sir.

5 Up next is Ed Norwood, and Lori Wade is
6 on deck.

7 MR. NORWOOD: My name is Ed Norwood.

8 ALJ HICKS: Let me swear you in first.
9 If you could just raise your right hand.

10 (Witness sworn.)

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

13 MR. NORWOOD: Ed Norwood, that's
14 N-O-R-W-O-O-D.

15 ALJ HICKS: And could you please give us
16 your address with the township.

17 MR. NORWOOD: 4694 Cemetery Road, #377,
18 Hilliard, Ohio 43026. I don't know the township.

19 ALJ HICKS: Do you live or work -- if you
20 could just hold the mic a little closer and speak up
21 as best you can. Do you live or work within the
22 project area?

23 MR. NORWOOD: No, but I'm a frequent
24 visitor to Battelle Darby so.

25 ALJ HICKS: Go ahead -- go ahead with

1 your testimony.

2 MR. NORWOOD: Visitor here. I agree with
3 a lot of the people who've spoken before that we
4 welcome solar power. We also want to make sure that
5 this is respectful coexistence with the nearby
6 neighbors and Battelle Darby.

7 I would also like to see the inclusion in
8 the lighting plan that the lighting is down facing to
9 minimize light interference and light pollution. I
10 don't want to see Battelle Darby look like it's next
11 door to a shopping center.

12 Thank you.

13 ALJ HICKS: Questions?

14 CHAIR FRENCH: No questions.

15 ALJ HICKS: Any questions?

16 MS. BOJKO: No, your Honor.

17 ALJ HICKS: Thank you, sir.

18 CHAIR FRENCH: Thank you, sir.

19 ALJ HICKS: Lori Wade is up next, and Ric
20 Queen is on deck. If you could please raise your
21 right hand.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 ALJ HICKS: If you could please state and
24 spell your name for the record.

25 MS. WADE: Yes. My name is Lori Wade,

1 L-O-R-I W-A-D-E. I reside at 6833 Avon Drive, 43123.

2 I am a resident of Pleasant Township.

3 ALJ HICKS: Okay.

4 MS. WADE: I've --

5 ALJ HICKS: Do you live or work within
6 the project area?

7 MS. WADE: I do.

8 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Both?

9 MS. WADE: Both, yes.

10 ALJ HICKS: Please go ahead.

11 MS. WADE: Thank you. And thank you for
12 the time of letting me speak here today. I have been
13 a resident of Pleasant Township for over 24 years.
14 And I was born and raised in Grove City, Ohio. I
15 have spent a lot of time in my youth and my adult
16 life on these trails, traveling these roads, and
17 enjoying the serenity and the beauty of this
18 township.

19 I moved out here for the peace and quiet
20 of the country feel of this. I participated on the
21 Pleasant Township Land Use Plan Committee on the
22 prior 10-year plan. I would like to see this area
23 remain as it is, although I know moving forward
24 progress is inevitable.

25 Darby Creek is in my backyard. I can

1 walk out my backdoor and be on the creek in a matter
2 of 17 steps, so I have a vested interest in
3 maintaining that property and maintaining the field
4 and the habitat in the creek. I'm also a member of
5 the Darby Creek Association, although I am speaking
6 on my own behalf this evening.

7 I am backing both the Darby Creek
8 Association initiatives and concerns as well as the
9 Metro Parks concerns for some of the -- the
10 recommendations that they have made, being the
11 aesthetics, the wildlife impacts, the protections for
12 native species, and also the invasive species
13 management, the impact that may come to the migratory
14 birds with the lighting on the property, and how it
15 will directly impact the park and the creek itself.

16 With the over 1 million visitors, I'm
17 sure that I'm not the only one who shares those
18 concerns. I am not against solar power. I have been
19 and still will be an environmentalist at heart, and I
20 understand the impact that we have of global warming.
21 I worked in a natural gas utility company, and I also
22 worked in the construction field, so everything that
23 I've heard tonight I understand. I just hope that
24 some of the concerns that were raised by Metro Parks
25 and the Darby Creek Association are addressed before

1 this project -- excuse me, before this project moves
2 forward.

3 So thank you for the time and for
4 listening to the concerns that were brought up this
5 evening so we can move this forward with all parties'
6 vested interests in mind. Thank you.

7 ALJ HICKS: Ric Queen.

8 MR. QUEEN: Pass.

9 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Questions? So our
10 next will be Clair Reynolds. And on deck is Squire
11 Galbreath.

12 (Witness sworn.)

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

15 MR. REYNOLDS: Clair Reynolds, C-L-A-I-R
16 R-E-Y-N-O-L-D-S.

17 ALJ HICKS: And could you please give us
18 your address along with the township.

19 MR. REYNOLDS: 7300 West Broad Street,
20 Prairie Township. I live adjacent to the proposed
21 area and adjacent to the proposed substation and
22 inverter location.

23 ALJ HICKS: Do you work in the project
24 area?

25 MR. REYNOLDS: No. I am retired. I

1 moved here about four and a half years ago looking
2 for an area semirural, nice location, landscape.
3 Very happy here.

4 My wife was extremely upset when she
5 heard about going to have solar panels directly
6 across the street. Contacted by several different
7 employees of the company and they tried to alleviate
8 some of her concerns. My wife in a past life was a
9 realtor. She's very concerned about the effect of
10 property values. The company stated that they've had
11 studies done in previous locations, and it has
12 virtually no effect on property values.

13 My wife vehemently disagrees with that.
14 And I think, you know, everyone here, you know, in
15 real estate it's location, location, location. So if
16 you are looking at a whole field of solar panels
17 versus a nice landscape, everyone knows that's going
18 to affect the value.

19 The second thing, we live right across
20 from the proposed location of the substation
21 inverters. I've been assured by several of the
22 employees of the solar company that that's just the
23 proposed location. Normally they locate those within
24 the center of the layout so that it is as far from
25 residences as possible so they don't have issues with

1 noise or EMF, yet the proposed location is right on
2 the corner near multiple residences. So I would ask
3 that if this project is approved, there is
4 stipulations those substations and any inverters, any
5 equipment that would make noise or emit EMF
6 interference be located a quarter mile from any
7 residents.

8 Also, because of the visual, you know,
9 across the road from me a level elevation of the
10 field where the proposed solar panels are is below
11 Route 40. I live across Route 40 from the proposed
12 location, and the location field is probably 6 feet
13 below the level of elevation of Route 40.

14 Well, there is proposed viewsapes of
15 trees 4 to 6 feet high. Well, that's just not going
16 to do any viewscape protection at all. I would
17 propose numerous ways that they can, I think, do
18 present berms, 10, 20, 15 foot high berms and put
19 vegetation on top of that, evergreens, or put barrier
20 walls. Everywhere they are putting -- we are --
21 housing where there is interstate are putting barrier
22 walls for sound interference. I propose the company
23 be required to install at which construction to -- to
24 give us some use strips, nothing like the 4-foot high
25 evergreens they are proposing that will do nothing.

1 In 20 years it will be great but not now.

2 I also have a two-story house, so we
3 have -- and I have views out my front window. I look
4 out. A 4-foot high tree is not going to do anything.
5 Present berms, whatever would be good for my
6 location. I know there are other houses in the area
7 that's going to be completely surrounded on all four
8 sides by solar panels. I don't know what they are
9 going to do there that would be adequate. I mean, I
10 think the company needs to address these issues.

11 I'm not against solar energy. I think
12 it's great. I think it should stand on its own and
13 not be supported by government subsidies. I know
14 looking at the one handout out there on the table it
15 looks like it was about 36 -- around 3 dozen proposed
16 locations for solar panel fields here in the western
17 Ohio. If there are other locations that are -- have
18 less effect on -- on residences, I would encourage
19 you to consider them over this one. There are
20 locations many places in the state that they could
21 build solar panels without affecting any of the
22 residents. And they need to consider that.

23 I thank you for your time.

24 ALJ HICKS: Mr. Galbreath.

25 MR. GALBREATH: Yes.

1 ALJ HICKS: On deck is Greg Hart.

2 Mr. Galbreath, if you could please raise
3 your right hand.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 ALJ HICKS: You might need to hold the
6 mic up. It will come out of the...

7 MR. GALBREATH: Like that?

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

10 MR. GALBREATH: Yes. My name is Squire
11 Galbreath, S-Q-U-I-R-E G-A-L-B-R-E-A-T-H. And I work
12 at 925 Darby Creek Drive, Galloway, Ohio 43119.

13 ALJ HICKS: Okay. For the record do you
14 live or work within the project area?

15 MR. GALBREATH: Yes.

16 ALJ HICKS: Which township?

17 MR. GALBREATH: Prairie. Prairie.

18 ALJ AGRANOFF: Do you live and work
19 within the project area?

20 MR. GALBREATH: No.

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: Which of the two?

22 MR. GALBREATH: I work in Prairie.

23 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead.

24 MR. GALBREATH: My name is Squire
25 Galbreath. I'm a resident of Franklin County, and I

1 support the Pleasant Prairie solar project.

2 Thank you for allowing me to present my
3 thoughts and observations on this project. Obviously
4 there are many positives and negatives to any major
5 project, but I believe the number and scope of
6 positives far outweigh any negative ramifications.
7 This is truly a win-win for the community, city, and
8 state.

9 Economically there is very little doubt
10 that the -- that the Prairie -- that the Pleasant
11 Prairie solar project is a huge -- huge winner.

12 I'm not sure of the exact figures, but it
13 will bring in significantly more tax revenue than
14 currently. With the majority of the land now in
15 CAUV, this project will yield maybe 5 to 10 times
16 what the schools and local government agencies are
17 receiving now. So, for instance, the school system
18 which we all know desperately needs and wants more
19 money will receive exponentially more than they
20 currently are receiving. In total the schools will
21 receive \$30,000,000, \$700,000 in township revenue,
22 and almost 9,000,000 in total county revenue.

23 For the west side, it will create much
24 needed construction and long-term jobs. That will
25 obviously then lead to increased earnings on a

1 state -- state -- local and statewide level,
2 employment taxes and overall economic output to the
3 tune of \$140 million statewide during construction
4 and over \$5 million in long-term output.

5 By the way, this project adds very little
6 to the demand for local services provided by the
7 government. I think anybody in this room or any
8 place for that matter, would be hard pressed to think
9 of any development, plan, or use that is even close
10 to creating both more tax revenue per acre while at
11 the same time demanding less services provided by the
12 local authorities in terms of fire and police.

13 Environmentally, the benefits are
14 practically endless. First off, compare this to a
15 housing development, warehouses, or any commercial
16 development. Obviously this would be probably more
17 desirable. I say commercial because anyone who owns
18 a large tract of land obviously has a right to do
19 whatever they want to with their property given the
20 appropriate zoning. For that matter, obviously a
21 person can do anything with any size property.

22 As you know, the Franklin County
23 Commissioners designated this county as an
24 alternative energy zone, so obviously they and the
25 citizens are committed to solar and see the real

1 needs and benefits of solar usage. Looking at
2 Franklin County, I'm not sure where one could
3 aggregate a large enough parcel to make it
4 economically viable to have a large-scale solar
5 project other than this one.

6 Solar energy is a very safe form of
7 renewable energy. When compared to traditional
8 energy generation, solar energy is obviously carbon
9 free, improves air quality and improves the health
10 impacts of emission-less generation.

11 As far as water quality being added to
12 the Darby Creek, crop -- excuse me, crop and sod
13 farming adds tremendous amounts of fertilizers and
14 chemicals to the water. There is none to very little
15 of that with solar. Erosion will be less here as the
16 ground won't be bare four to six months a year as in
17 crop and sod farming.

18 There will be minimal noise, the drainage
19 will be better, no hazardous waste will be produced,
20 an insignificant amount of traffic, and again, I say
21 insignificant when compared to a housing development,
22 so zero traffic.

23 We live in a democratic society, and
24 everyone is allowed to voice their opinion.
25 Everybody has a right to express their feelings and

1 obviously should. On the other hand, there are
 2 property rights and zoning rights in a democratic
 3 society. In America, we don't believe in a
 4 dictatorship, rather the majority decides and in the
 5 case of the Pleasant Prairie, the majority of the
 6 people in Prairie and Pleasant Township and Franklin
 7 County, I believe that this project is best
 8 economically and for the environment and for the
 9 community as a whole.

10 Thank you.

11 ALJ HICKS: Sir.

12 ALJ AGRANOFF: I do have one question of
 13 your testimony and that was with respect to some of
 14 the tax revenue impacts that you were discussing.

15 MR. GALBREATH: Yes.

16 ALJ AGRANOFF: Where did those numbers
 17 come from?

18 MR. GALBREATH: From Invenergy.

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: From the company.

20 MR. GALBREATH: The solar company.

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

22 ALJ HICKS: Any questions from the
 23 Applicant? Questions from either Intervenor?

24 MS. BOJKO: No, thank you.

25 ALJ HICKS: Thank you for your testimony.

1 Greg Hart up next and on deck is Nancy
2 Day-Achauer. Apologize in advance on that one.

3 Mr. Hart, please raise your right hand.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 ALJ HICKS: You might need to hold it up.
6 If you could spell and -- state and spell your name
7 for the record.

8 MR. HART: Greg Hart, H-A-R-T. I live at
9 2417 Darby Creek Drive, Pleasant Township. I live
10 and work in the community.

11 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Thank you, sir. Go
12 ahead with your testimony.

13 MR. HART: Thank you, guys, for being
14 here. Chairman Jenifer, we want to thank you. Kind
15 of embarrassing, I really didn't know a whole lot
16 about the Power Siting Board until this came up. I
17 also started thinking when did zoning take place that
18 allowed utility companies to do pretty much anything
19 they want to do.

20 And I really came to the answer of
21 getting power from point A to point B crossing some
22 of these properties to supply power to the other side
23 of the field. When we get into the wind and solar
24 type of power systems, this is a solar power
25 generating plant. Okay? It's not a farm. We are

1 trying to call it a solar farm. They are really not
2 farms. It's not farming, but I think in this
3 particular case I don't think every project deserves
4 to be approved.

5 I think there are areas such as this, I
6 know when you were coming here, you had to be in awe
7 a little bit of the beauty of this area. Literally
8 200 feet mind you is a scenic river. It's very
9 environmentally and ecologically sensitive.

10 And I think for those reasons, being so
11 sensitive, this area, maybe it's time for the state
12 and maybe even the Power Siting Board to come up with
13 new regulations where systems like these should be.
14 We have so much vacant land along freeways. We have
15 other land that's going to be less impactive to
16 homeowners. I am a homeowner, fourth generation. My
17 family has worked in this area all around Columbus,
18 and when you start talking about the impact of
19 values, I know there is a report from somebody in
20 North Carolina which almost is bogus because he's
21 comparing 10 and 15 acre, you know, plans compared to
22 a 2,500 acre. And we depend on the citizens for the
23 state really to make decisions for us and correct
24 decisions, and I just think there is other
25 opportunities, I don't know, on top of warehouses.

1 There is 500 acres of rooftop right out here in West
 2 Jefferson along the freeway. They say they have to
 3 get the energy to the AEP substations. Build a
 4 substation. I mean, is there a way you guys can do
 5 this which would be less impactful for the 300
 6 homeowners here that truly may lose value of their
 7 homes?

8 Everybody that spoke here tonight, all of
 9 them had great points. Unfortunately I find myself
 10 in a quandary. I have many friends here on both
 11 sides. And even on the side that wants the power
 12 plant, I have very dear friends here that I would do
 13 anything for, and I think all of us are going to
 14 leave here one way or another being friends.

15 But I just encourage the Siting Board to
 16 listen to the Darby Creek Association, the Battelle
 17 Parks, the Audubon Society, the migratory birds that
 18 come in here and now I think is going to have to find
 19 a place to land, we're missing 2,500 acres, glass
 20 shield, and also the nature conservancy, what Tony
 21 talked about. In order for this to be done
 22 correctly -- I don't know how it can be done,
 23 especially in this area. Take some time when you
 24 leave here. Drive around a little bit more. It is
 25 truly one of the special spots right here in Ohio,

1 and I hope you take that into consideration when you
2 start choosing and picking where these sites should
3 be.

4 We appreciate what you are doing. We
5 know it's tough decisions, so we hope that you --
6 maybe it's time to just rework where the large
7 systems like this should be placed. Thank you.

8 ALJ HICKS: Thank you. On deck is Jason
9 Parrish. Please raise your right hand.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Yeah, you might also
12 have to hold it up. Could you state and spell your
13 name for the record.

14 REVEREND DAY-ACHAUER: Nancy Day-Achauer.
15 Everybody butchers it. It's okay.

16 ALJ HICKS: I tried.

17 REVEREND DAY-ACHAUER: N-A-N-C-Y D-A-Y
18 hyphen A-C-H-A-U-E-R.

19 ALJ HICKS: Okay. And could you please
20 give us your address along with the township.

21 REVEREND DAY-ACHAUER: 5951 Luccis Court,
22 Columbus. I am in the City of Columbus, close by.

23 ALJ HICKS: Okay. Do you live or work in
24 the project area?

25 REVEREND DAY-ACHAUER: I serve in the

1 project area.

2 ALJ HICKS: Okay.

3 REVEREND DAY-ACHAUER: So I am the
4 Reverend Nancy Day-Achauer. I have served the
5 Prairie Township community in many capacities since
6 2012. And this proposed facility will be located 15
7 minutes from my home and along the boundary of the
8 Westland Area Commission where I serve as the chair
9 of Public Health and Safety. I am also the co-chair
10 of the Prairie Township Community Health Action Team
11 which is a program in Franklin County Public Health,
12 and we serve the proposed area.

13 I attended a presentation by Invenergy,
14 and I am satisfied that they are conducting thorough
15 due diligence for the purpose of identifying and
16 responding to the environmental needs of our native
17 plants and wildlife and will also meet the necessary
18 requirements for protecting our watershed.

19 And I'm pleased that the property owners
20 providing the land for this project have chosen to
21 exercise their property owners' rights in a way that
22 also benefits the community and the environment.
23 They could have done like property owners in northern
24 Union County and put in a chicken farm or a hog farm
25 which the land is zoned for. They could have done

1 like other local landowners and sold to a developer
2 who would build a subdivision or apartments, but they
3 didn't. They selected a responsible option instead.

4 I believe this facility will be
5 beneficial to our community in many ways. Most
6 important, the completed project will provide clean,
7 renewable energy which is critical for public health
8 and the environment. Additionally, during the
9 construction phase, the project will provide work for
10 the building trades which helps our local economy.
11 Local landowners will benefit from the lease payments
12 for the facility which will put more money into our
13 local economy and will prevent the land from laying
14 fallow.

15 Equally important, our local
16 infrastructure, school district, library, and the
17 fire districts will benefit from the \$4.4 million
18 project developers will pay county and township
19 governments each year. The Pleasant Prairie Solar
20 Energy Center will be a positive investment in the
21 future of southwestern Franklin County, and I urge
22 you to weigh the facts and support this project.

23 Thank you.

24 ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

25 ALJ AGRANOFF: Next is Mr. Jason Parrish,

1 and on deck is Jim Ramsey.

2 Mr. Parrish, please raise your right
3 hand.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your full
6 name and address for the record.

7 MR. PARRISH: My name is Jason Parrish,
8 J-A-S-O-N P-A-R-R-I-S-H. And my address is 3093
9 Sunset Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43202.

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you live in a
11 particular township?

12 MR. PARRISH: I do not.

13 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you live or work
14 within the project area?

15 MR. PARRISH: No.

16 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Please proceed with
17 your testimony.

18 MR. PARRISH: Okay. So I'm really just
19 speaking for myself. I am an agriculture professor
20 and a volunteer at the Metro Parks. Like many other
21 people here, I'm very much in favor of solar. I
22 think there are just a lot of other areas that should
23 be considered like someone said just recently, you
24 know, warehouse roofs. That's already just kind of
25 dead space, right?

1 We've got huge, you know, parking lot
2 areas. I've seen parking lots covered in solar, and
3 I thought why are we not covering all of these huge
4 parking lots in solar panels? I know it's smaller
5 areas than the almost 2,000 acres they want to do
6 here. And there's some efficiency in that but, you
7 know, these are already areas that are not useful for
8 farming or wildlife.

9 You know, we have got millions of roofs
10 in the United States. There are brownfields. There
11 are shopping centers. You know, there are all these
12 areas that are already great environments that would
13 be fantastic to be covered with solar and, you know,
14 really get some benefit out of those instead of just
15 a blank roof not doing anyone any good.

16 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Any questions?

17 Any questions from the Applicant? Any
18 questions from counsel?

19 MS. HUBER: No, thank you, your Honor.

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.

21 Next, we have Jim Ramsey, and on deck
22 would be Kori Gasaway.

23 Please raise your right hand, Mr. Ramsey.

24 (Witness sworn.)

25 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Please state

1 your full name and address for the record.

2 MR. RAMSEY: James Ramsey, 970 Dublin
3 Road, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you reside here in
5 the township?

6 MR. RAMSEY: I work for the Franklin
7 County Engineer's Office and maintain the roads,
8 bridges, and drains, and other structures in this
9 area.

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: Including the project
11 area?

12 MR. RAMSEY: Yes.

13 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you -- proceed with
14 your testimony. Thank you.

15 MR. RAMSEY: Thank you. Appreciate the
16 opportunity to come speak with you tonight. When I
17 first became acquainted with Pleasant Prairie solar
18 and got into this process and understanding how it
19 worked, I looked at the drainage mitigation plan.
20 That's my primary role, focus is with drainage in the
21 area and I was at first significantly concerned.
22 What I saw, because this area has a lot of old
23 drainage systems that are not well mapped and
24 probably over 100 years old and already fragile, and
25 I didn't think that any type of -- this type of

1 construction could be done in that area without
2 damaging them, and then you would be in a position of
3 trying to figure out where the problems were and fix
4 them later.

5 So we've reached out to Invenergy, and
6 they have been very responsive and responded in ways
7 that are very responsible. So far in the process
8 every indication they will continue to do so. They
9 asked that we wrap all the drainage concerns also
10 into the road use and maintenance agreement.

11 And so my reason for coming to speak
12 tonight is to say that so far so good with our -- my
13 interaction has been very positive with the company.
14 And if the project is approved, that we look forward
15 to having a good road use maintenance agreement that
16 includes replacing the needed drainage
17 infrastructure.

18 I think that's probably necessary
19 anywhere you approve a project in Ohio. Drainage is
20 a significant concern all across Ohio. And when
21 you -- and somehow in this process it's just got to
22 be taken into consideration. So far we -- we think
23 that's going to be easy to do with Invenergy. They
24 seem to be willing to cooperate and work with us
25 reasonably, and so we look forward to doing that and

1 encourage you to make sure that any of the project
2 sites that you approve address those concerns.

3 ALJ AGRANOFF: Do you currently have a
4 road use maintenance agreement in place with the
5 Applicant?

6 MR. RAMSEY: We do not. But we are in
7 talks with them, and we will soon start developing
8 that.

9 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

10 MR. WEAVER: Do you use drones?

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: Excuse me, sir. The
12 questions are going to be from the parties.

13 Any questions from the Applicant? From
14 counsel?

15 MS. BOJKO: Are you here today in your
16 official capacity, or are you here as an individual
17 capacity?

18 MR. RAMSEY: I am here in my official
19 capacity.

20 MS. BOJKO: Thank you.

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: Just for the record what
22 is your job title?

23 MR. RAMSEY: I am the riparian and
24 environmental engineer is my job title, and I work
25 primarily with drainage, old drainage systems.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: For Franklin County.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. RAMSEY: For Franklin County.

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

5 Any other questions from counsel?

6 MS. HUBER: No, thank you, your Honor.

7 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.

8 Next, we have Kori Gasaway, and on deck
9 is Glen Horst --

10 MR. HORSTMAN: Horstman.

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Hard for me to
12 see all those letters.

13 Please raise your right hand.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Please state
16 your full name and spell it for the record.

17 MS. GASAWAY: My name is Kori Gasaway,
18 K-O-R-I G-A-S-A-W-A-Y. My address is 5471 Baneberry
19 Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43235 and that is Perry
20 Township.

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you live and/or
22 work within the project area?

23 MS. GAWAWAY: My employer owns property
24 that abuts the project, and I do work there
25 occasionally.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please proceed with your
2 testimony.

3 MS. GASAWAY: Today I am speaking on
4 behalf of Columbus Audubon and its membership of
5 nearly 3,000 Central Ohioans who support our mission
6 to promote the appreciation, understanding, and
7 conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their
8 habitats for present and future generations.

9 We at Columbus Audubon understand that
10 investing in solar energy will help to reduce carbon
11 pollution and protect birds threatened by climate
12 change. However, it is imperative that the
13 development of renewable energy projects and
14 technologies avoid, minimize, or effectively mitigate
15 negative impacts to birds and their habitat.
16 Research shows us that solar arrays can serve as
17 habitat for a variety of wildlife, but they must be
18 carefully planned and thoughtfully executed to
19 prevent unintended negative consequences to the
20 ecosystem.

21 This is even more imperative for a
22 project in the Darby Plains region. Columbus
23 Audubon's primary concern is that the integrity of
24 the Darby Plains habitat be maintained through the
25 planting of local genotype native plants,

1 implementation of an invasive species management
2 plan, and minimization of light pollution to protect
3 the habitat that Central Ohioans have worked to
4 rebuild over the past 50 years.

5 Millions of taxpayer dollars have been
6 invested in the restoration of this unique 385 square
7 mile ecoregion to its current state. Three of these
8 projects can be considered directly adjacent to the
9 proposed solar array, Columbus and Franklin County
10 Metro Parks' outstanding Battelle Darby Metro Park,
11 City of Columbus' restoration at Clover Groff Run,
12 and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's
13 restoration of Hellbranch Run.

14 As these projects took shape, we watched
15 in awe as birds that are rare to Central Ohio such as
16 Sandhill Cranes, Henslow's Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks,
17 Bell's Vireos, Common Gallinules, and many more that
18 I don't have time to name, returned to this place to
19 breed, after being extirpated from the area long ago
20 due to widespread agricultural land use. These three
21 major projects taken on by three public agencies and
22 myriad local, state, and national partners represent
23 the focused intent of Franklin County residents to
24 restore and protect the Darby Plains.

25 Invenergy is in a unique position to

1 connect these conservation project areas and expand
 2 upon the current conservation efforts and continue
 3 Central Ohio's shared goal of restoring the Darby
 4 Plains. To ensure continuity of habitat from the
 5 Metro Park, through the project area, and on to
 6 Hellbranch Meadows and Clover Groff, we request that
 7 Invenergy uses only Darby Plains native species, and
 8 native genotypes when possible, in its project
 9 plantings, including landscape screenings and
 10 perimeter plantings. The three existing projects
 11 worked hand in hand with Metro Parks to be sure they
 12 were meeting the specific habitat needs of these
 13 species that call Darby Plains home. Invenergy
 14 should do the same.

15 A project like this also necessitates an
 16 invasive species management plan. Disturbed soil
 17 from the installation of this project will be an open
 18 door to seeds from invasive species, and once plants
 19 such as Cattails, Amur Honeysuckle, Callery Pear, and
 20 many others become established they can quickly
 21 overtake the project's native species. Not only does
 22 this result in swift and incredible losses of those
 23 species, as well as the time and large amounts of
 24 money Invenergy will spend installing them, invasive
 25 species are mobile, and they threaten adjacent

1 projects, whose stewards, I can tell from personal
2 experience, have already spent many hours over the
3 course of years eradicating invasive species from
4 these areas.

5 Finally, we do overlook the value of this
6 area to migratory birds. Many migratory birds use
7 waterways to navigate, and Big Darby Creek can be
8 considered a highway of species that migrate both
9 during the day and overnight. For nocturnal
10 migrants, nighttime lighting is evolutionarily
11 important, and research has shown substantial impacts
12 of increased artificial light at night on migratory
13 stopover decisions and survival. Columbus Audubon
14 helped to develop, and continues to support, the
15 efforts of Lights Out Columbus, a program to reduce
16 nighttime light sources in the city and surrounding
17 areas. These efforts are being replicated globally
18 to reduce the impacts of urban landscapes on
19 transient migratory birds.

20 Night sky brightness has increased
21 exponentially over the last 75 years, and many of the
22 most recent increases have come from natural resource
23 extraction infrastructure. This development is
24 particularly evident in the Great Lakes and eastern
25 North America, a region that overlaps with

1 significant migratory flyways. We also ask Invenergy
2 join Lights Out Columbus Initiative and work with us
3 to reduce nighttime lighting in the project.

4 We are so excited to be getting our first
5 utility-scale solar array here in Franklin County.

6 Invenergy has a unique opportunity to do this right
7 and set the standard for future projects in Franklin
8 County and beyond. The opportunity to show that
9 cleaner renewable energies can be fully green and
10 integrated into our communities in partnership with
11 agencies like Columbus and Franklin County Metro
12 Parks, and with minimal ecological impacts. The
13 concerns of Columbus Audubon have much in common with
14 the Metro Parks' petition for leave to intervene
15 filed on May 2, 2021, as well as public comments
16 submitted by the Darby Creek Association. We support
17 Metro Parks' concerns and strongly encourage the Ohio
18 Power Siting Board to ensure that these concerns are
19 met.

20 Thank you for your time and attention
21 today.

22 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. I do have one
23 question. What is your capacity at the Columbus
24 Audubon Society?

25 MS. GASAWAY: I am a Board Trustee.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

2 Any other questions? Any questions from
3 counsel?

4 Thank you.

5 Now we have Glen --

6 MR. HORSTMAN: Horstman.

7 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir. And then
8 after you, we have Jeanne Harf-Geo? Is she here?
9 Jeanne Harf-Geo? Harf-Geo? She would be on deck.
10 Jane?

11 MS. HARF: Jane, uh-huh.

12 ALJ AGRANOFF: Jane would be next.

13 Please raise your right hand.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your full
16 name and address for the record.

17 MR. HORSTMAN: My name is Len Horstman,
18 H-O-R-S-T-M-A-N, and my address is 350 Plain
19 City-Georgesville Road. I live between the Darby
20 Creeks and have for 24 years. And you have other
21 questions?

22 ALJ AGRANOFF: Which township?

23 MR. HORSTMAN: Oh, it's Jefferson
24 Township, Madison County.

25 ALJ AGRANOFF: And your address again?

1 MR. HORSTMAN: 350 Plain
2 City-Georgesville Road.

3 ALJ AGRANOFF: And I assume because you
4 do not live in either of the two townships that are
5 part of the project area that you do not live or work
6 there?

7 MR. HORSTMAN: It's within about a mile
8 and a half of this area so, this place right here, so
9 it is really close. My wife and I ride our bikes
10 here regularly to the Big Darby Parks. We don't even
11 have to drive.

12 ALJ AGRANOFF: Your residence itself is
13 not --

14 MR. HORSTMAN: No, no, just over the
15 Madison County line.

16 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Please proceed with
17 your testimony.

18 MR. HORSTMAN: I'm a former NASA engineer
19 and currently a member of the Association of Ohio
20 Commodores which is a group dedicated towards
21 providing jobs for Ohio. But, like I said, I also
22 live here and spend a lot of time at the Darby Parks,
23 and it's very important to us.

24 I think renewable energy is our future
25 and really am happy to have my community participate

1 in this. Not only the benefits we get from the taxes
2 and jobs but I think these kinds of projects have a
3 domino effect where they start attracting other
4 things. For instance, some day not only maybe they
5 will be putting power back to the grid but maybe we
6 will start with renewable storage, so the holy grail,
7 I guess, in the solar thing is to have solar power
8 plus storage because you need things when the sun's
9 not shining, right?

10 So I think that they'll bring potentially
11 other companies that want to be part of an Ohio
12 that's green. I think there is going to be
13 replacement panels as technology improves or as they
14 wear out in 25 years. I think it's a thing that is
15 going to be of tremendous benefit to be able to
16 imagine the kind of companies drawn to the general
17 area because of this.

18 I'm confident not only can we mitigate
19 the problems that everyone talked about today but why
20 can't we be an example of the world in a -- just
21 having landowners, the parks, and the Invenergy
22 company become a partnership that the whole world is
23 proud of, an example for the rest of the world.

24 Thank you.

25 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Any questions

1 from counsel?

2 Thank you, sir.

3 MR. HORSTMAN: Thank you.

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: Next is Jane Harf.

5 MS. HARF: Yeah. I apologize. I put GEO
6 there after my name, and it got very confusing.

7 Thank you.

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: Need to swear you in,
9 please.

10 MS. HARF: Yes.

11 (Witness sworn.)

12 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your full
13 name and address for the record.

14 MS. HARF: My name is Jane Harf, J-A-N-E
15 H-A-R-F.

16 ALJ HICKS: You may need to hold up.

17 MS. HARF: As in father, F as in father.
18 My address is 375 Spruce Drive in Granville, Ohio.
19 That's in Licking County, Granville Township.

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you -- do you
21 live --

22 MS. HARF: Okay. Is that better?

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: Do you live and or work
24 within the project area?

25 MS. HARF: No, I do not.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please proceed with your
2 testimony.

3 MS. HARF: Thank you. I'm here today
4 representing Green Energy Ohio. I'm the Executive
5 Director of Green Energy Ohio. I appreciate the
6 opportunity to provide comments in support of the
7 Pleasant Prairie Solar Energy Center in Franklin
8 County under the development by Invenergy. Green
9 Energy Ohio is a statewide nonprofit organization
10 dedicated to the promotion of sustainable energy
11 practices, policies, and technologies, and we do that
12 through education, through outreach, and through
13 representation. We represent a diverse membership of
14 individuals, businesses, community and government
15 entities, and academic institutions, all of whom who
16 share our mission. We have many members and
17 supporters in Central Ohio; and, in fact, we have
18 been in communication with them about this project.

19 The GEO Statement of Policy Positions
20 endorses investment in utility-scale solar projects
21 for the broad range of economic and environmental
22 benefits that these facilities provide. First and
23 foremost, local communities are the beneficiaries of
24 these projects, through both substantial payments in
25 lieu of taxes that support local school districts and

1 municipal services. For example, it is estimated
 2 that the South-Western City School District, Ohio's
 3 sixth largest public school district, could receive
 4 more than \$1 million annually from this project.
 5 This is in addition to moneys for townships,
 6 libraries, fire districts and other entities.

7 At the same time, GEO recognizes that
 8 there is more to being a good neighbor than funding,
 9 and we applaud the efforts that Invenenergy has made to
 10 hear and to address the concerns community members
 11 have had throughout the process, both residents whose
 12 lands they will be leasing and those who live nearby
 13 the proposed site. Their commitment to 80 percent
 14 local construction labor is yet another way to ensure
 15 that Ohioans are benefiting as we heard earlier today
 16 from the IBEW and from the construction trades and
 17 from others who work in these arenas.

18 The need for clean, affordable renewable
 19 energy generated by large-scale solar farms is
 20 consistently increasing, driven by the demands of
 21 corporations with aggressive sustainability goals
 22 like Amazon, like Facebook, all of the various
 23 companies that Ohio has sought to locate here, and
 24 municipal governments, like Columbus, governments who
 25 have committed themselves to reducing their carbon

1 footprint through aggregation.

2 In the summer of intense heat in the
3 western U.S., catastrophic flooding in Europe, and
4 the early onset of the hurricane season, we must take
5 into account the environmental value of adding
6 renewable energy resources to the grid. Having just
7 completed GEO'S Statewide Electric Vehicle Tour, I
8 have become even more aware of the climate impact of
9 the transportation sector.

10 As a measure of benefit, this project
11 would reduce the carbon emissions, take off the road
12 carbon emissions from over 55,000 internal combustion
13 engine automobiles. And having been on that tour, I
14 never say it would replace 55,000 cars because I
15 believe that it's the internal combustion engine that
16 we're trying to replace having driven an electric
17 vehicle now for -- for a week in this tour, and I can
18 tell the difference.

19 In any case, this project has been well
20 thought out. I am familiar with the developers. I
21 am familiar with many of the supporters. I have been
22 involved for a very long time, and I have read the
23 materials. And Green Energy Ohio as an organization,
24 my Board of Directors, has voted to support the
25 project, and we are available to provide any

1 information that you require.

2 Thank you.

3 ALJ AGRANOFF: I do have a question,
4 ma'am.

5 MS. HARF: I'm sorry. Someone had a
6 question?

7 ALJ AGRANOFF: Yeah. I just want -- so
8 that the record is clear and -- GEO, and I just want
9 to make sure, that stands for Green Energy Ohio?

10 MS. HARF: It does. It does. I
11 appreciate that. I usually put it after the first
12 time I use it in writing, and then I use it as a
13 shorthand when I'm speaking. Yes. Thank you.

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Any questions
15 from counsel?

16 Next, we have Stephen Tucker, and on deck
17 is Ashley Hoyer.

18 (Witness sworn).

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your full
20 name and address for the record.

21 MR. TUCKER: Stephen, S-T-E-P-H-E-N,
22 Tucker, T-U-C-K-E-R, 2801 Canterbury Road, Upper
23 Arlington, Ohio.

24 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you reside within
25 the township?

1 MR. TUCKER: No.

2 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you live or work
3 within the project area?

4 MR. TUCKER: I work within the project
5 area.

6 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Please proceed with
7 your testimony.

8 MR. TUCKER: I would like to begin by
9 quoting a letter to the editor on solar's impact on
10 rural property values that was in the March 22, 2021,
11 Farm Journal Periodical, and it's written by Andy
12 Eames with the American Society of Farm Managers and
13 Rural Appraisers. He posted the article that
14 includes discussion of a survey of appraisers and
15 studies on the question of the property value related
16 to solar farms. He also discusses the findings of
17 Donald A. Fisher, ARA, who served six years at the
18 chair of the ASM -- ASFMRA's National Appraisal
19 Review Committee. He's also the executive vice
20 president of the CNY Pomeroy Appraisers and has
21 conducted several market studies on solar farms and
22 property impact.

23 He's quoted in the article as saying most
24 of the locations were either in Suburban or rural
25 areas, and all of those studies found either a

1 neutral impact or ironically a positive impact for
 2 values on the properties after -- after installation
 3 of solar farms went up higher than time trends.
 4 Howard Holderman, AFM, President, and CEO of
 5 Holderman Real Estate and Farm Management attended
 6 the AF -- ASFMRA solar talk hosted by the Indiana
 7 chapter of the ASFMRA, and he concludes that other
 8 rural properties would likely see no impact in
 9 farmers and landowners show -- shown even consider
 10 possible benefits.

11 And in some cases farmers who rent land
 12 to a solar company will show the viability of their
 13 farm operation for a longer time period. This makes
 14 them better long-term tenants or land buyers. So one
 15 can argue that the higher rents and land values will
 16 follow into the positive impact that solar leases
 17 offer.

18 The benefits to the community are --
 19 let's see here, some of the benefits that will impact
 20 the Pleasant Prairie solar project and adjoining
 21 property owners, the design of the project won't
 22 affect most of the people around the project for the
 23 Pleasant Prairie solar project if energy is committed
 24 to using the most innovative technology to help the
 25 earth and the community in addition to producing

1 enough electricity to power more than 49,000 homes
2 for Pleasant Prairie project will bring an estimated
3 4.4 million annual investment to Franklin County each
4 year through new taxes and landowners' payments over
5 the life of the project.

6 The project will also reduce property tax
7 for the project and that will be invested in the
8 community. You'll see over a \$33 million in total
9 school district revenue, will be over \$700,000 in
10 total additional township revenue, and most
11 importantly 8.7 million in total additional county
12 revenue.

13 The Invenergy is going to be addressing
14 the topics and concerns of the neighbors and
15 property -- adjoining property owners. The project
16 deals with drainage and should lead to better
17 drainage in the area. Invenergy has committed to
18 repairing damaged lateral drain tiles. There will be
19 little to no noise. The design on the solar facility
20 provides minimum noise at locations, mostly sited
21 internal to the project and away from the adjoining
22 property boundaries. There's no hazardous waste.
23 Solar does not produce any hazardous waste. There
24 will be minimal traffic. And overall our nation and
25 our energy infrastructure, this is vital in regards

1 to keeping America strong, and renewable energy is
2 the future. And I support the Pleasant Prairie solar
3 project.

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: I do have a clarifying
5 question. The written numbers that you discussed in
6 your testimony, I just wanted to know the basis for
7 those numbers, where --

8 MR. TUCKER: Those were provided to me by
9 Invenergy.

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

11 Any questions from the Applicant? Any
12 questions from counsel?

13 MS. BOJKO: I do, your Honor. Thank you.
14 I didn't catch -- I heard you lived in Upper
15 Arlington, but I didn't catch who you were here
16 testifying on behalf of.

17 MR. TUCKER: I work in real estate. I
18 sell in Central Ohio, sell in this area.

19 MS. BOJKO: So are you testifying on
20 behalf of your company, the real estate company?

21 MR. TUCKER: No, myself personally.

22 MS. BOJKO: Okay. Thank you. Thank you.

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any further questions?

24 MS. HUBER: Nothing further.

25 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

1 Next, we have Ashley Hoyer, and on deck
2 would be Tim I think it's Feran.

3 MR. FERAN: Feran.

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: I'm sorry. Tim, what was
5 the last name?

6 MR. FERAN: Feran.

7 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you. You
8 will be on deck.

9 (Witness sworn.)

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please proceed by stating
11 your full name and your address for the record.

12 MR. HOYE: So my name is Ashley Hoyer,
13 A-S-H-L-E-Y H-O-Y-E.

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: And your address.

15 MR. HOYE: 9 -- 801 Darby Creek Drive.

16 ALJ AGRANOFF: Say again.

17 MR. HOYE: 801 Darby Creek Drive Rear.

18 ALJ AGRANOFF: Do you live in the
19 township?

20 MR. HOYE: I do.

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: Which one?

22 MR. HOYE: Prairie Township.

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you also work
24 within the township?

25 MR. HOYE: I do.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: And is your work and
2 residence within the project area?

3 MR. HOYE: It is. I can see the Big
4 Darby Creek from my house.

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir. Please
6 proceed with your testimony.

7 MR. HOYE: Great. Thank you. Good
8 evening, Chairwoman French, voting members of the
9 Power Siting Board. My name is Ashley Hoyer, and I
10 proudly reside at 801 Darby Creek Drive Rear,
11 Galloway, Ohio. That is correct, proudly reside. I
12 have lived on the far west side of Franklin County
13 since 2001, and as you can tell from my accent, I am
14 not originally from here. I called New Zealand and
15 Australia home for the first 22 years of my life. I
16 moved to America in 1995, became a citizen, and have
17 lived in Galloway, Ohio, for 20 years.

18 I have put deep roots down in this
19 community marrying my wife Jodi in Galloway and
20 raising our son here as well. I truly love this part
21 of Franklin County so much that I wanted to be more
22 involved in the local community, and so for over 18
23 years now, I joined the Westland Area Business
24 Association, the Westland Area Commission, Franklin
25 County Planning Commission, and was asked by the

1 Prairie Township Trustees to represent them as a
2 member of the distinguished Big Darby Accord Advisory
3 Panel, and I accepted the position and currently hold
4 the position chairman. My roots run deep in this
5 community I love.

6 You all sit here before me today as
7 pioneers, that's right, pioneers, in 20, 50, 100
8 years from now people in this community will be
9 talking about you because you approved this first
10 megawatt solar facility in Franklin County, Ohio.
11 What an honor it will be for you to have your names
12 and reputations connected to this groundbreaking
13 project. You will be pioneers.

14 The local community of Galloway will
15 flourish with approval of this project with 800 local
16 jobs created, Galloway's hotels, shops, restaurants,
17 bars, mechanic shops, schools will all be bursting at
18 the seams. I wouldn't be surprised to see them at
19 full capacity for many years to come and spark an
20 increase of more businesses to this community. It
21 will be fantastic for local businesses.

22 I have spoken to many of the Westland
23 area business owners and many are projecting huge
24 potential growth once this project is approved. I
25 see this as a boom for this neglected side of

1 Franklin County.

2 I hear all the time in my community "How
3 can we make the school system better?" Here is your
4 chance. Annually they will receive over \$1.1 million
5 without asking the local homeowners to pay any more
6 levies or taxes. We all know why other school
7 districts that do well are doing well. It's because
8 they have dollars.

9 This project can -- so how can Pleasant
10 and Prairie Townships survive and do well? Approve
11 this program. How can we improve our fire districts?
12 Approve this program. How can we improve our
13 Southwest Public Libraries? Approve this program.
14 How can we improve Franklin County? Approve this
15 program. All told \$1.75 million per year will be
16 injected into these entities. You know what to do.

17 I wanted to finish my speech today by
18 telling you that ever since our first correspondence
19 within Invenergy we have had nothing but honesty,
20 trust, and loyalty from them. Invenergy has answered
21 all of our e-mails and phone calls in a timely
22 manner, Invenergy has jumped all in to this
23 community, reached out to all surrounding landowners
24 and have attended many community meetings to address
25 concerns.

1 Invenergy is transparent and will ensure
2 this project is handled from start to finish with the
3 care and due diligence required. Invenergy knows
4 that the Big Darby Creek is an amazing resource that
5 this area needs to protect for the next millennium
6 and will be paying for -- and will be -- we have
7 talked to them about providing funds for monitoring
8 before, during, and after the project to ensure the
9 Big Darby Creek is better than when they first
10 arrived.

11 Many of my colleagues know that this
12 creek will only thrive from less chemical and
13 fertilizer and fertilizer runoff from taking out
14 2,500 acres of surrounding crop and sod farm from
15 approving this project.

16 As a community, we are doing the right
17 thing by being onboard. I can only see this Pleasant
18 Prairie renewable energy center being a feather in
19 the cap of the community Franklin County and Ohio.
20 People will travel from far and wide to see this
21 solar farm, they will visit this magnificent Battelle
22 Darby Nature Center, they will eat at our
23 restaurants, they will stay at our hotels, ride their
24 bikes on the trails just to see this. Already other
25 1 million cars drive down Darby Creek Drive per year

1 to visit this great part of Franklin County, let's
2 work together and educate the public on the
3 importance of renewable energy. I can see the nature
4 center where we stand and sit today having a section
5 dedicated to renewable energy education much like the
6 solar learning center at the Glacier Ridge Metro
7 Parks in Plain City, Ohio, which is so very good.

8 Let's work together and show the rest of
9 the state and country that we have true pioneers and
10 that we can work together and do the right thing.
11 Approve this project and help the communities of
12 Pleasant and Prairie Township thrive. You know you
13 are doing the right thing by approving this.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 ALJ AGRANOFF: I do have a question
16 similar to I asked some of the other witnesses, the
17 statistics in terms of revenue that you cited?

18 MR. HOYE: Yes.

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: Where was the basis or
20 what is the basis for those numbers?

21 MR. HOYE: I have been given from
22 Invenergy.

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: Questions on behalf of the
24 Applicant? Questions from counsel?

25 MS. HUBER: No, your Honor.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.

2 MR. HOYE: Thank you for your time.

3 ALJ AGRANOFF: Next is Tim Feran, and on
4 deck is Patricia Marida.

5 MR. FERAN: I'm bringing along my wife
6 because I was expecting her to be late, but she has
7 now arrived, so we would like to testify together, if
8 that's all right.

9 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Is that all right? I
10 had a previous commitment in Reynoldsburg, the other
11 side of the county.

12 ALJ AGRANOFF: That's fine. We will
13 swear both of you in.

14 (Witnesses sworn.)

15 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your full
16 names and addresses for the record.

17 MR. FERAN: My name is Tim Feran.

18 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: And I am Marilyn
19 O'Shaughnessy.

20 MR. FERAN: T-I-M F-E-R-A-N.

21 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Good luck with
22 O'Shaughnessy. Are you ready?
23 O--S-H-A-U-G-H-N-E-S-S-Y.

24 MR. FERAN: We support the Pleasant
25 Prairie Solar Energy Center. Maryellen, of course,

1 is the Franklin County Clerk of Courts. And when she
2 was a member of Columbus City Council, she was part
3 of the formation of the Big Darby Accord, as you
4 know, the multi-jurisdictional efforts to preserve
5 and protect the Big Darby Creek and its tributaries.

6 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I also have a long
7 association with the fabled Darby Dan Farm. That
8 history goes back to its international horseracing
9 days. I was part of a farm team that broke and
10 trained these treasured and valuable Darby Dan
11 thoroughbred yearlings through 10 crops of young
12 horses. I was very young then.

13 I have a fond memory of many days at
14 Darby Dan and at this Metro Park and I've watched as
15 part of my history has been slowly becoming a part of
16 Metro Parks and the natural landscape.

17 One thing we know for certain is that
18 change is the only constant. While Darby Dan's
19 racing history is for the most part just that, these
20 lands and those surrounding it in this beautiful
21 Darby watershed on our county's western edge have the
22 opportunity to make history once again as an
23 environmentally sensitive solar farm project.

24 Clean, renewable energy is the future,
25 and I am proud that my old workplace is taking the

1 lead just like those horses did so many years ago
2 with a project that will move our -- our county to
3 the forefront in Ohio.

4 MR. FERAN: As you've heard, Invenergy
5 has pledged that this project will provide enough
6 electricity to power more than 45,000 homes with
7 carbon free electricity. They've pledged to restore
8 native and diverse prairie plantings that will
9 further protect our beloved Darby watershed. And
10 they have pledged to create green energy jobs; and,
11 of course, the tax revenues for the townships and
12 Franklin County importantly more than \$30 million in
13 total additional school district revenues, 700,000 in
14 total additional township revenues, excuse me, and
15 more than a million dollars in total additional
16 county revenue. And, of course, all of this is with
17 no hazardous waste, better in pesticide free drainage
18 into the Darby watershed, minimal noise, minimal
19 traffic, and minimal impact on the neighbors.
20 There's -- they are pledging to have a distance
21 between the solar farm and adjacent homes at
22 approximately 600 feet or roughly the length of two
23 football fields.

24 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Invenergy is
25 committed to working with local neighbors to minimize

1 any impact, and we know that that impact will be
2 minimal. We ourselves have invested in the small
3 solar project at our own condo home, and we are
4 pleased every day to see we are doing our part to
5 reduce our carbon footprint.

6 And I just want to say thanks to all who
7 are helping to move all of Franklin County to the
8 lead once again on the clean energy front. Anything
9 else?

10 MR. FERAN: That's it.

11 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Thank you so very
12 much for this opportunity.

13 ALJ AGRANOFF: As I've asked some of the
14 other witnesses in terms of the revenue numbers that
15 you cited, what would be the basis for those?

16 MR. FERAN: As we said, those are from
17 Invenergy.

18 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: And I do want to say
19 I have also talked to the development department with
20 the county and I believe corroborated by the work
21 that they've done on the PILOT project, right?

22 ALJ AGRANOFF: When you say the PILOT
23 project.

24 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Payment in lieu of
25 taxes.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Are you aware of the
2 existence of a proposed PILOT project --

3 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Yes.

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: -- for this particular
5 case?

6 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Yes. I talked to
7 Mr. Shimmer.

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any questions from
9 counsel?

10 MS. BOJKO: Yes, your Honor. I don't
11 believe you asked the same questions when we started
12 this joint testimony today about where they lived.
13 Do they live in the township? Or maybe I misheard
14 it.

15 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Yeah. We live in
16 43204 right by the Scioto River in Hidden Lake.
17 That's 1324 Lake Shore Drive, Unit C, Columbus, Ohio
18 43204. And we have eight solar panels on top of our
19 condo unit. We're the first in Central Ohio to use
20 it.

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: Do you live within the --
22 do you live within the township?

23 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Do I live within the
24 township? No, I do not. I live in Columbus, Ohio,
25 right on the Scioto River.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you work within the
2 township?

3 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I am a Franklin
4 County elected official, Franklin County Clerk of
5 Common Pleas Court.

6 ALJ AGRANOFF: So you do not work within
7 the project area.

8 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I work within
9 Franklin County, yes.

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: The project area itself as
11 denoted.

12 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I don't work in the
13 township, but I do represent the township as a
14 countywide elected official --

15 ALJ AGRANOFF: I understand you --

16 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY -- Franklin County
17 Clerk of Common Pleas Court. The entire county
18 elects me to serve them, okay?

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

20 MS. BOJKO: Your Honor, I have a
21 follow-up question.

22 ALJ AGRANOFF: Sure.

23 MS. BOJKO: Are you here to testify in
24 your official capacity on behalf of Franklin County?

25 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I would be happy to

1 do so. As Clerk of Courts, it's not directly in my
2 line of work, but I feel very compassionately about
3 this end of the county because of my long association
4 with it and my extensive time in this area, and I
5 believe this is a net benefit. I believe very
6 strongly about it.

7 MS. BOJKO: I am not asking if you would
8 testify in that capacity. I am asking if you came
9 here today to testify in your official capacity of
10 Franklin County.

11 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: If you would like me
12 to do so, yes. And I would like to testify in my
13 personal capacity too here with my husband and as a
14 person who's invested in solar personally.

15 MS. BOJKO: Okay. Let me try one more
16 way. Did -- Franklin County, do they know you are
17 here testifying? Are you supposed to testify on
18 their behalf and their -- in your official capacity?

19 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: As Franklin County
20 Clerk of Courts, I am an independently elected
21 official. There is no one that I have to ask for
22 permission to do this. I am an independently elected
23 official, 1 of 11 independently elected officials,
24 okay?

25 All right. And I am representing my

1 office, and I am representing myself personally. And
2 my husband and I are happy to stand before you and
3 stand as supporters of this project.

4 MS. BOJKO: And who owns your solar
5 panel -- who installed your solar panels?

6 MS. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Ecohouse Solar.

7 MS. BOJKO: Thank you.

8 Thank you, your Honor.

9 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any additional questions
10 from counsel?

11 MS. HUBER: No, your Honor, thank you.

12 ALJ AGRANOFF: Next, we have Patricia
13 Marida, and on deck is Isaiah Bach or Gaal. Is
14 Patricia Marida here?

15 We will move on then. Is Isaiah
16 Bach-Gaal here?

17 Next, we have Abigail Zhong. Is Abigail
18 here?

19 Next, we have Jill Drexel. Is Jill in
20 attendance?

21 MS. DREXEL: Yeah, I'm here. Saving the
22 best for last, are you?

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: We still have a few more
24 but.

25 MS. DREXEL: Oh, okay.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: We are getting close.

2 Please raise your right hand.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your full
5 name and address for the record.

6 MS. DREXEL: Jill Katherine Drexel. I
7 live at 7617 Kuhlwein Road, Galloway, Ohio 43119.

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you live in a
9 particular township?

10 MS. DREXEL: I live in Prairie Township.

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you --

12 MS. DREXEL: I don't work. I'm retired.

13 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. And is your
14 residence in Prairie Township within the project
15 area.

16 MS. DREXEL: Oh, my gosh. Oh, yes. Oh,
17 heck, yes.

18 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please proceed with your
19 testimony.

20 MS. DREXEL: Okay. Well, right at the
21 moment I am dealing with the fact that --

22 ALJ AGRANOFF: Could you use the mic.

23 MS. DREXEL: I thought I had kind of a
24 booming voice. You can't hear me? Come on.

25 Anyway I am dealing with the fact that

1 I've been preparing for this for a while now, but I'm
2 computer illiterate. I don't know anything about
3 computers. They hate me, and I hate them right back,
4 but I've been dealing with it. And I've done the
5 research on solar projects so that I could be
6 informed.

7 Now, it is going to ruin my view. The
8 panels are going to be as high as my house pretty
9 much because I have a ranch. On the other hand,
10 that's not why I am here. I am here because I'm
11 afraid of the pollution that is going to be created
12 by this project. I'm going to read a little of this,
13 so you can get what I am saying without my shaking
14 because I've been up for two days, and I haven't
15 eaten in one, so I'm a little bit stressed.

16 There are basically two areas of concern
17 for large solar energy projects. The first is the
18 toxic chemicals associated -- associated with the
19 production and disposal of solar panels and the
20 transference lines. The chemicals contained within,
21 lead, cadmium, et cetera, interact with the
22 environment when the panels are damaged due to the
23 poor quality of the panels, damage from other weather
24 events, and/or damage from animal activity.

25 The Chinese panels for this project are

1 such poor quality that their undamaged life span is
 2 five years compared to other panels that can last 20
 3 to 25 years. In Prairie Township we have many high
 4 velocity windy events per year which are usually
 5 accompanied by a lot of rain which causes regular
 6 flooding problems. We also have large burrowing
 7 animals who will eat through anything in their path.
 8 This is my experience which includes 4-inch pipes,
 9 large four to five cables and contents of a number of
 10 substation boxes.

11 Because the farms will be replacing crops
 12 with solar panels, these animals will be eating
 13 whatever they can find which could be the
 14 transference lines thus spilling the toxic chemicals
 15 into the groundwater. Once the toxic substances hit
 16 the groundwater they will poison our wells and spread
 17 underground to the Darby Creek Nature Preserve and
 18 ruin the happy state of the wildlife there.

19 Since there is no way for the residents
 20 in the area to know when this could happen, we would
 21 have to live every day of our lives playing Russian
 22 roulette. It isn't if the pollution will happen but
 23 when and who will get sick or die from these
 24 chemicals in their water first. Those who survive
 25 will be faced with the fact they don't have access to

1 any water for their houses, and they can't sell for
2 the same reason.

3 The other problem with solar power is the
4 electromagnetic fuel radiation, or EMF radiation. In
5 small amounts it is considered safe. However,
6 consumers have been warned that cell phones,
7 microwaves, and MRIs, and x-rays produce enough EMF
8 radiation to cause health hazards.

9 By comparison, the proposed solar project
10 is 15 feet high and covers 2,500 acres which is
11 considerably larger and would, therefore, cause
12 significant harm to the residents who are
13 continuously exposed to these high levels of
14 radiation. Since the Invenergy solar plant will be
15 on three sides of my house, I will walk -- be like
16 walking into a giant microwave every day when I get
17 my mail and two to three hours exposure when I mow my
18 lawn. Since the World Health Organization has
19 declared exposure to high levels of EMF radiation are
20 carcinogen, I wonder how long I have before I get
21 sick.

22 I have included a timeline for the Love
23 Canal Disaster in New York where it was only a 15
24 acre site, contaminated the entire town and its
25 water. Many people were responsible for this

1 catastrophe when they failed to understand that even
2 steel will deteriorate and nothing is indestructible.
3 It took many years and millions of dollars to
4 ameliorate the effects of this community trauma. The
5 same situation could happen here if the solar project
6 is approved.

7 I would like to briefly mention the
8 considerable noise pollution caused by the movement
9 of the solar panels. They follow the sun during the
10 day and move back to their original starting point at
11 night. Metal upon metal, motors running, and gears
12 grinding will cause some horrific sounds to be
13 emitted, especially in the winter when ice and snow
14 prevent the panels from moving even though the motor
15 keeps trying.

16 I was a journeyman millwright for almost
17 30 years, and I lost my hearing despite wearing my
18 earplugs every day. Industrial noise pollution is
19 very destructive to people's hearing. I moved out
20 here for the health benefit afforded by living in a
21 semirural area. The solar project is not a farm by
22 definition. It is an industrial power plant. The
23 only difference is that the power plant has thick
24 walls and floors to contain the noise, the pollution,
25 and the fumes. The solar project has none of these

1 protections.

2 One other topic worth mentioning, studies
3 have shown that the glare from the solar panels will
4 harm the birds in the area as it can blind them.
5 This will kill them and they won't be -- because
6 think won't be able to find food. I have many birds
7 that live in my yard including a hawk and a falcon.
8 I would hate to find my birds dead. What a terrible
9 waste of beautiful creatures.

10 You should also be apprised that
11 Invenergy has been caught in many lies and,
12 therefore, to trust as fact what they tell you would
13 be a huge mistake. Their good neighbor agreement is
14 an attempt to get the area's residents to sign away
15 their rights because they intend to cause significant
16 damage to the environment here. If they maintain
17 them, there aren't going to be any problems. Then
18 why do they want an agreement?

19 If you have any questions, folks, you can
20 call me. I did put my number in here.

21 Anyway, what I'm saying is did you -- I
22 can't see with these on now. Anyway what I am saying
23 is I believe in clean energy. This company isn't the
24 one to provide it. Not with the lies they've told
25 us.

1 And they have purchased the most terrible
2 panels, the cheapest. Even unbroken they last five
3 years, and they still cause pollution. I mean, I
4 spent a lot of time digging into the internet, and I
5 weeded out everything. My statistics professor used
6 to say "If you want to change the statistics to the
7 way you want them to be, why, you just -- you pay
8 someone to get what you want."

9 So I pick groups that had stuff on the
10 internet that had no vested interest, not solar
11 companies who want to tell you "Hey, it's all
12 butterflies and unicorns." I picked companies like
13 Forbes and Discover and places that just talked about
14 the residual effects of the toxic chemicals that are
15 contained within this system.

16 And when the panels expire, they don't go
17 to a regular landfill. They have to be scrubbed at a
18 toxic waste dump, and it isn't cost efficient. So a
19 lot of the fields are just left standing where the
20 pollution continues to drain into the soil. And in
21 our case it -- the water flows towards Darby Creek.

22 So when those things -- when our wells
23 probably get poisoned, we'll also have the Darby
24 Creek Reservoir is going to be contaminated and
25 basically that's a bell you can't unring. I mean,

1 look at Love Canal, 15 acres. It poisoned the whole
2 town and water system. It took millions upon
3 millions of dollars, and I don't think it's even done
4 yet, but I think they are still trying.

5 Anyway the bottom line is you have to get
6 a company you can trust and this isn't the one. They
7 called me up before I even knew about this, told me
8 that all -- there was going to be a little bitty
9 solar farm coming in, farm is a misnomer, and that
10 everybody in my area had signed a good neighbor
11 agreement. And they get a thousand dollars a year to
12 sign this agreement. Oh, wow. Lucky me. A thousand
13 dollars, that sounds like a lot.

14 On the other hand, I said, "Well, I don't
15 know. I better check into what this is because I
16 have no idea what you're talking about." And they
17 told me, "Oh, everybody in your area signed.
18 Everybody." And they said "Because you are the last
19 one we will even give you extra money. We will raise
20 it to 2,000."

21 Okay. I called my neighbors. You mean,
22 we're not -- we talk, and none of them had signed the
23 agreement, not one. They said "We're waiting to find
24 out what's going on." I said "Me too." So in any
25 case that and the fact they picked the cheapest,

1 rottenest panels that are going to pollute our wells.
 2 I mean, let's face it, once they start up this
 3 project I'll never be able to use my water again
 4 because I fought tenaciously to stay alive. I've had
 5 colon cancer, thrombotic disease. I have all sorts
 6 of history, and I'm still here because I am a tough
 7 old bird. I'm really ornery, I know. So they told
 8 me not to talk and I am anyway. Anyhow.

9 ALJ AGRANOFF: Ms. Drexel.

10 MS. DREXEL: Okay. I will stop. So in
 11 any case I hope you will listen, and you will -- if
 12 you want, I will give my packet. It's not very neat
 13 and tidy, but my computer kept spitting out stuff.

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: I would just point out you
 15 had mentioned you had your phone number in there. If
 16 that becomes a public record, I don't know whether
 17 you necessarily want your phone number as part of --

18 MS. DREXEL: Well, I just wanted you guys
 19 to have it if you wanted to ask me anything like
 20 where did I get my information or whatever. I even
 21 included some of this stuff. As I said, my computer
 22 hates me. I've been up for two days as it spit out
 23 gobbledygook. So I finally went over to a friend's
 24 house. She got as much as she could put in there.
 25 Anyway if you want to look at, it's fine.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Well --

2 MS. DREXEL: I mean, if not, I was going
3 to save it for the evidentiary hearing, right? Okay.
4 Whatever.

5 But anyhow I thank you for your patience.

6 ALJ AGRANOFF: Let me check. Let me
7 first check. Any questions from the attorneys?

8 MS. DREXEL: Sure. Who has a question?

9 CHAIR FRENCH: No. No. Okay.

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: The last witness that I
11 have on our list is Diana Sullivan. And just out of
12 curiosity is there anyone else in attendance that
13 would like to testify? The gentleman back there with
14 the red baseball cap, I believe, we will get to you
15 last. We will.

16 MS. SULLIVAN: I brought my husband up
17 here because just a unit. Diana and Anthony
18 Sullivan.

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Are you going to be
20 basically saying more or less the same thing?

21 MS. SULLIVAN: I am going to read part of
22 it, and he will read part of it.

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. If I can have you
24 raise your right hands.

25 (Witnesses sworn.)

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your full
2 names and addresses for the record.

3 MS. SULLIVAN: Diana Sullivan, 8025 West
4 Broad Street, Galloway, Ohio. It's Prairie Township.

5 MR. SULLIVAN: Anthony Sullivan, 8025
6 West Broad Street, Galloway, Ohio. We both live in
7 Perry Township.

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: Within the project area?

9 MR. SULLIVAN: We do live in the project
10 area. We do not work in the project area.

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: You do not work.

12 Please proceed with your testimony.

13 MS. SULLIVAN: First, thank you so much
14 for letting us speak. Please accept this letter of
15 support from my husband and I for the Prairie
16 Township solar power project. My family have been
17 residents of this area for over 15 years. Our
18 children are currently enrolled in South-Western City
19 School District.

20 We are in full support for the renewable
21 energy option that will be with us for the next 40
22 years to help alleviate the use of natural resources.
23 Will this solve all of our energy problems?

24 Absolutely not. But we've got to start somewhere.

25 We must all do our part to continue to

1 make renewable energy and renewable resources
2 available.

3 MR. SULLIVAN: As a family, we are
4 working towards becoming a chemical free home, and we
5 are about 80 percent. We are excited to see the
6 elimination of pesticides seeping into the ground as
7 our home is surrounded by fields on three sides.

8 The result of this project would
9 eventually restore the ecosystem back to its original
10 state. No leaching in the wells would mean better
11 health for individuals. There would be no runoff
12 into nearby watersheds which would support and return
13 wildlife back to its natural happy state.

14 This would also help to restore the
15 pollinators which are on the decline in our area.

16 MS. SULLIVAN: We initially moved out
17 into the country for the solitude from the city and
18 have seen the housing development increase
19 drastically. And I'm concerned about the effects on
20 us and the surrounding area in the future. With this
21 proposal there would be no development of any kind
22 for the next 40 years, and at the end the lease would
23 go back to the agricultural.

24 The financial relief of this project
25 would greatly benefit the local schools systems and

1 support our local economics -- or economy with jobs.
 2 Our children have spent their entire school
 3 experience in this district from Prairie Lincoln
 4 and -- Prairie Lincoln Elementary and currently
 5 attend Westland High School. And firsthand we've
 6 noticed how much funding they do need, especially in
 7 this South-Western -- this corner of South-Western
 8 City School District. It is like the poorest area
 9 besides Franklin.

10 So, you know, everybody is talking about
 11 how the panels are going to pollute the land and all
 12 this but think about it. You know, we have
 13 microwaves in our homes. We all carry cell phones.
 14 We all need to do our part to make it better for our
 15 future. If we don't start somewhere, we are not
 16 going to get anywhere.

17 Thank you for your time.

18 MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you.

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. There being no
 20 questions, I don't believe that there is anybody who
 21 is here who has not already testified and would be
 22 interested in testifying.

23 And that being the case, at this point in
 24 time we ARE adjourned.

25 ALJ HICKS: I am going to use the mic so

1 I don't have to keep yelling at all of you, but as
2 Judge Agranoff said, this will conclude things. On
3 behalf of the Board, we would like to thank everyone
4 that came out and attended the hearing and provided
5 testimony.

6 This will conclude the public hearing,
7 and the official record -- testimony will be made
8 part of the official record and will be part of the
9 Board's consideration in the case.

10 As Judge Agranoff mentioned previously,
11 the evidentiary hearing in this case for Pleasant
12 Prairie solar, the Board staff and intervening
13 parties will have their opportunity to present expert
14 testimony in support of their positions has been
15 scheduled to begin on Monday, August 16, 2021, at the
16 Board's offices at 180 East Broad Street, Columbus,
17 Ohio.

18 After the evidentiary hearing is
19 concluded, the parties will have the opportunity to
20 submit written briefs and reply briefs in support of
21 their representative positions, and then thereafter,
22 the Board will issue its decision on Pleasant
23 Prairie's application.

24 With that we're concluded. Once again,
25 thank you all and hope you have a good night.

(Thereupon, at 8:58 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 Monday, July 19, 2021,
and carefully compared with my original stenographic
notes.

Karen Sue Gibson, Registered
Merit Reporter.

(KSG-7115)

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Case No(s). 20-1679-EL-BGN

Summary: Transcript July 19th 2021

In the Matter of the Application of Pleasant Prairie Solar Energy LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Construct a Solar-Powered Electric Generation Facility in Franklin County, Ohio. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Gibson, Karen Sue Mrs.