

From: Kelli.King@puco.ohio.gov  
Subject: RE: Clearview Solar, I - public hearing 8-21-21 - transcript  
Date: Aug 25, 2021 at 3:15:57 PM  
To: Marcy Bills officialreporting@hotmail.com

Hi Marcy!

So I spoke with our docketing dept. and we are not allowed to file any document on behalf of a party. In this case, you can fax the transcript in to 614-466-0313 or you can just mail it to PUCO Docketing, 180 E. Broad St., 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Hope this helps!

Kelli

*Please file !!*

*Thank you!*

**From:** King, Kelli  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2021 8:06 AM  
**To:** Marcy Bills <officialreporting@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Clearview Solar, I - public hearing 8-21-21 - transcript

Got all your emails – thanks again for your help with this one Marcy!

**From:** Marcy Bills <officialreporting@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 22, 2021 9:50 AM  
**To:** King, Kelli <Kelli.King@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** Clearview Solar, I - public hearing 8-21-21 - transcript

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Greetings.

Please find attached a regular and condensed version of the transcript for this public hearing I too this past week. Please acknowledge receipt of same.

I will be submitting my invoice on the website you provided.

I will be putting in the mail to you on Monday all the paperwork, written statements, et cet.  
provided to me for the record.

Thank you.

**Marcy L. Bills, Court Reporter**  
**OFFICIAL REPORTING AGENCY**  
**officialreporting@hotmail.com**

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THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD  
IN THE MATTER OF THE  
APPLICATION OF CLEARVIEW  
SOLAR, I, LLC FOR A  
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL Case No. 20-1362-EL-BGN  
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED.

\* \* \* \* \*

PUBLIC HEARING  
Thursday, August 19, 2021  
6:05 p.m. to 8:08 p.m.  
  
Fire/Twp. Meeting Room  
10778 W. State Route 29  
Rosewood, Ohio 43070  
  
BEFORE: HON. DAVID HICKS, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

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## 1 APPEARANCES

2 ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT, CLEARVIEW  
3 SOLAR, I, LLC4 Matthew C. McDonnell, Esq.  
5 DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC  
6 150 East Gay Street, Suite 2400  
7 Columbus, Ohio 432158 ON BEHALF OF INTERVENOR, BOARD  
9 OF COMMISSIONERS of CHAMPAIGN  
10 COUNTY, OHIO11 Jane Napier, Asst. Prosecuting Attorney  
12 Champaign County Prosecutor's Office  
13 200 North Main Street  
14 Urbana, Ohio 43078  
15  
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1 JUDGE HICKS: The Ohio Power Sitting  
2 Board has scheduled for public hearing at this  
3 time and place case number 20-1362-EL-BGN, which  
4 is captioned in the Matter of Application of  
5 Clearview Solar, I, LLC for a Certificate of  
6 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

7 My name is David Hicks. I'm an  
8 administrative law judge in the Ohio Power Siting  
9 Board's Legal Department, and I'm assigned to  
10 hear this case.

11 I have just a few opening remarks I  
12 would like to go through, and then I will start  
13 calling those who have signed up to testify in  
14 the order in which you signed up.

15 I'll also point out that we have  
16 staff members from the Power Siting Board. I'm  
17 sure you saw them as you came in out front. If  
18 you have particular questions about the project  
19 or about anything with Power Siting or the  
20 commission, certainly speak to them.

21 Andrew Conway is in the back raising  
22 his hand, also part of our staff. They can  
23 answer any questions that you might have about  
24 the project.

25 I'd also point out that there's some

1 representatives from Clearview Solar here in  
2 front if you want to wave to folks as well. They  
3 have a table out front as well with some  
4 information, and I'm sure they are welcoming of  
5 any questions you might have of them about the  
6 project.

7 Right now I'm going to go ahead and  
8 start and take appearances of counsel on behalf  
9 of the parties, and we will start with the  
10 applicant.

11 MR. MCDONNELL: Thank you, Your  
12 Honor. On behalf of the Applicant, Clearview  
13 Solar I, LLC, the law firm of Dickinson Wright,  
14 Matthew McDonnell, Christine Pink and William  
15 Vorys, 150 East Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215,  
16 Suite 2400. Thank you.

17 JUDGE HICKS: And on behalf of the  
18 Board of Commissioners of Champaign County?

19 MS. NAPIER: Hi. I'm Jane Napier.  
20 Assistant Prosecutor with the Champaign County  
21 Prosecutor's office on behalf of the Intervenor,  
22 Champaign County Board of Commissioners.

23 My office is 200 North Main Street,  
24 Urbana, Ohio 45 -- I'm sorry -- 43078. Thank  
25 you.

1 JUDGE HICKS: Thank you. I'll also  
2 note another intervenor in the case, Ohio Farm  
3 Bureau Federation and its staff is also part of  
4 the proceedings. I don't believe Ohio Farm  
5 Bureau or staff has counsel here. I just make  
6 note of it. There could obviously be non-counsel  
7 representatives attending or monitoring the  
8 proceeding.

9 The subject of today's hearing is an  
10 application filed by Clearview Solar, I, LLC for  
11 the purpose of constructing a solar-powered  
12 electric generation facility up to 144 megawatts  
13 in Adams Township in Champaign County, Ohio.

14 The application was filed on December  
15 18th, 2020. And the Board's staff filed a Report  
16 of Investigation on May 24th, 2021. This report  
17 is a recommendation of the Board's staff and does  
18 not necessarily reflect what the Board's final  
19 determination in the case will be.

20 The purpose of this evening's public  
21 hearing is to receive additional testimony  
22 regarding the application from people in the  
23 local community, but who are not parties to the  
24 case.

25 Tonight's public hearing will not be

1 treated as a question-and-answer session, but  
2 rather an opportunity to let the Board know what  
3 you think about the proposed project.

4 Again, if you have particular  
5 questions, I would urge you to talk with staff or  
6 with representatives of the applicant.

7 Tonight's public hearing is only one  
8 aspect of the process in this case. A virtual  
9 public hearing was previously held on June 8th,  
10 2021. If you offered testimony at the previous  
11 virtual public hearing, we would ask that you not  
12 testify again as your prior testimony is already  
13 part of the record of this case. And we would  
14 like to ensure that we have adequate time and  
15 resources to hear from other individuals who are  
16 waiting to offer their views to the Board  
17 tonight.

18 You can always supplement your  
19 testimony by submitting written comments to the  
20 Board. This can be done via the Power Siting  
21 website, and our staff and board representatives  
22 can give you further instructions on that.

23 We can play it by ear a little bit.  
24 I would prefer to have -- and I'm certainly not  
25 going to tell someone they cannot speak at this



1 proceeding. I think it makes sense to probably  
2 let those who have not testified up to this point  
3 go ahead and go first so we ensure that we get  
4 through all of them. But we'll go from there.

5 After the public hearing here, the  
6 adjudicatory hearing portion of this case is  
7 scheduled to commence on September 1st, 2021 at  
8 the Board's offices in Columbus.

9 At the adjudicatory hearing the  
10 parties in the case will offer the testimony of  
11 their witnesses, present evidence, and  
12 cross-examine the witnesses of other parties.

13 I will note that tonight's hearing is  
14 being transcribed by a court reporter so if you  
15 plan to testify, please speak up, speak clearly  
16 so that the court reporter can accurately reflect  
17 your comments on the record.

18 Also if you prepared a written  
19 statement, it would be helpful if you could leave  
20 a copy of that with the court reporter. She'll  
21 include it as part of the record of this hearing.

22 If you do that, just please ensure  
23 that your name is on it so we can match it up to  
24 whose statement it might be for the reporter.

25 After I finish with this

1 introduction, we will begin inviting individuals  
2 on the sign-in sheet to speak about the proposed  
3 project. Each person who signed up to testify  
4 will be permitted to speak once about the  
5 proposed project.

6 Before you present your testimony,  
7 you will be asked to take an oath or affirmation  
8 that what you're about to say is true. We will  
9 ask you to state your name and address for the  
10 record, and then you will be able to provide your  
11 thoughts on the proposed project.

12 The parties to the case, which again  
13 are seated up front, and myself will be permitted  
14 to ask you questions about your testimony.

15 The testimony that you provide  
16 tonight be considered part of official record in  
17 the case, and it will be reviewed by the Board  
18 before a final decision is made on the  
19 application.

20 Just a few other preliminary notes.  
21 If you decide you do not want to testify and we  
22 read your name from the sign-in sheet, you can  
23 certainly pass to the next witness, and we'll  
24 keep going.

25 If you decide that you would prefer

1 to file written comments, you can file those on  
2 the case docket on the Board's website. And  
3 again, staff can help you and direct you on how  
4 you would be able to do that.

5 Once you finish testifying or if  
6 you're just here as an observer, you're certainly  
7 free to leave at any time. I'd just ask that you  
8 do so quietly as we can proceed with things.

9 Again, the Board appreciates your  
10 participation in tonight's hearing. We want  
11 everyone who is signed up to be able to testify  
12 and have an opportunity to do so. For that  
13 reason we would ask that you keep your statement  
14 to a reasonable length of no more than five  
15 minutes.

16 With that, I think we are ready to  
17 proceed. Like I said, I'm going to probably skip  
18 a little bit on this order just to ensure we get  
19 to folks that I know have not testified yet. We  
20 can try and circle back once we've gone through  
21 that if anyone has statements to make.

22 And so with that, I think our first  
23 new witness would be Rebecca Smith. And I will  
24 also apologize in advance if I butcher anyone's  
25 name. I'm just trying to read them. Sorry in

1 advance.

2 I know we don't have a podium. You  
3 can just stand here. I just need to swear you in  
4 if you could raise your right hand.

5 **REBECCA SMITH**

6 **being first duly sworn by the**  
7 **Judge, testifies and says as follows:**

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

10 MS. SMITH: Rebecca Smith,  
11 R-E-B-E-C-C-A, S-M-I-T-H.

12 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. And could you  
13 please provide your address including the  
14 township?

15 MS. SMITH: I live at 13145 County  
16 Road 3, also known as Logan-Champaign County  
17 Line, Quincy, Ohio 43343. And I live in Adams  
18 Township.

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

21 MS. SMITH: I do.

22 JUDGE HICKS: Both?

23 MS. SMITH: I live in the project  
24 area.

25 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead

1 with your testimony.

2 MS. SMITH: Hello. My name is  
3 Rebecca Smith. I have lived in Adams Township in  
4 Quincy my entire life minus thirteen years that I  
5 lived in Sidney. My parents still live in the  
6 same house they raised me and my three sisters.

7 That house sits on the farm that my  
8 great grandparents bought in 1943. That house  
9 and that house -- excuse me -- and the house that  
10 my husband and I currently live in was built by  
11 my grandfather on three-quarters of an acre of  
12 that same farm.

13 My husband, Carl, and I have raised  
14 our two children on the same farm that I got to  
15 grow up on. When we chose to buy our home --  
16 this was eight years ago -- we took into  
17 consideration not only the school system, but  
18 also the location. We no longer wanted to live  
19 in the city. We wanted to move to some place  
20 quieter, more peaceful. We wanted to live in the  
21 country.

22 So when my grandfather's old house  
23 went up for sale, we knew we wanted to buy it.  
24 Living in the country was something I missed  
25 terribly.

1 I love watching the nature, wildlife  
2 in its own element. I put bird feeders out  
3 because I love to watch the birds, undisturbed,  
4 living as God intended.

5 I love watching the sunsets from my  
6 own little oasis. But now that is all about to  
7 change if you give Open Road Renewables  
8 permission to build a 144 megawatt solar farm in  
9 Adams Township.

10 There has been research done and it's  
11 easily obtained on the internet the negative  
12 effect that solar panels have on the natural  
13 habitat. According to science.com, updated on  
14 April 24th, 2017, quote: "Solar farms pose a  
15 real environmental challenge, including habitat  
16 degradation and harm to wildlife."

17 I ask you: Would you want someone  
18 coming and disturbing your personal space? The  
19 fact that the decision of whether or not to allow  
20 this solar farm to be built in our neighborhood  
21 rests in your hands does not sit well with me.

22 You, the members of the Ohio Power  
23 Siting Board, do not live in this area. How many  
24 of you have ever been to Adams Township?

25 I do not believe that you can make an

1       educated decision. That is why I am here  
2       testifying against Open Road Renewables'  
3       application to build a solar farm in Adams  
4       Township.

5                       I believe if you grant Open Road  
6       Renewables permission to build this, you are a  
7       part -- you are a part of a bigger problem.

8                       Money is the root of all evil, and  
9       that is exactly what is going on here.

10                      The way Open Road Renewables  
11       approached this community to build this solar  
12       farm was shady and underhanded. They approached  
13       the farmers with the most land and money. It was  
14       done quietly so as not to quote, wake the little  
15       man. You know, the ones that cannot afford to  
16       buy up all the farm land. There are a few of  
17       these greedy farmers in this community that only  
18       care about how much money they can make. Instead  
19       of being a good and decent neighbor and taking  
20       care of the community, they only think of  
21       themselves.

22                      The point I am trying to make is I  
23       live in Adams Township for a reason. This is  
24       home to me. I have family and friends here. I  
25       am third generation living on this farm. It is

1 more than just land to me.

2 Open Road Renewables wants to take  
3 that away from not only me and my family, but to  
4 take it away from my neighbors and friends all in  
5 the name of the almighty dollar.

6 There has to be a better location in  
7 which to build this solar farm. Generational  
8 farms is not a good choice of location.

9 I ask you today to please deny Open  
10 Road Renewables the permission to build this  
11 solar farm that will forever change the lives of  
12 many people who have called this place home for  
13 generations.

14 Thank you.

15 JUDGE HICKS: Any questions from the  
16 applicant for the witness?

17 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions, Your  
18 Honor.

19 JUDGE HICKS: Intervenor?

20 MS. NAPIER: No questions.

21 JUDGE HICKS: All right. Thank you  
22 for your testimony.

23 Up next is Madelyn Smith.

24 MS. MADELYN SMITH: My name is  
25 Madelyn Smith.



1 JUDGE HICKS: I need to swear you in  
2 real quick.

3 MADELYN SMITH

4 being first duly sworn by the  
5 Judge, testifies and says as follows:

6 JUDGE HICKS: Could you please state  
7 and spell your name for the record?

8 MS. SMITH: My name is Madelyn Smith,  
9 M-A-D-E-L-Y-N, S-M-I-T-H.

10 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Could you please  
11 provide your address including the township?

12 MS. SMITH: 113 North Highland  
13 Avenue, Apartment 2A, Sidney, Ohio 45365, and I  
14 don't live in the township.

15 JUDGE HICKS: Do you live or work  
16 within the project?

17 MS. SMITH: I used to live with my  
18 mom on County Road 3.

19 JUDGE HICKS: But not currently?

20 MS. SMITH: No. I moved.

21 JUDGE HICKS: Please go ahead with  
22 your testimony.

23 MS. SMITH: I want to give you guys  
24 this.

25 For as long as I can remember, my

1 grandfather has been farming the land at his home  
2 at 9965 Snapptown Road. I have seen him drive on  
3 down on his big, red tractor getting ready to  
4 plant.

5 I have heard countless hours of talk  
6 about how badly we need rain for the crops to  
7 grow, or adversely, how we need the rain to stop.  
8 He, like many other farmers in the Midwest, has  
9 made farming his life. They know what, or at  
10 least have an idea of what conditions are  
11 necessary and right for crops to grow. That  
12 means fertilizer needs to be used. The land  
13 needs tilled. It needs to rain just the right  
14 amount at just the right time. The temperature  
15 has to cooperate, and every few years crop has to  
16 be rotated.

17 If none of this happens, and ground  
18 that was once planted or goes unused for years,  
19 we end up with no crop.

20 Ground that goes unused becomes  
21 dormant and will take even longer to be of use  
22 again, if it is even doable. That being said,  
23 solar farms are not welcome here on generational  
24 farmland because they impact the conditions  
25 necessary for crops to grow and will kill

1 essential farmland.

2 As the earth grows older and the  
3 population increases, it becomes increasingly  
4 obvious that resources that were once plentiful  
5 are now diminishing. As a result we have turned  
6 to other possible sources that will maintain our  
7 current lifestyles.

8 Sources like wind and light have  
9 become the fad of the power world. Solar panels  
10 began to form in 1954 when the first photovoltaic  
11 cell was invented. Since then they have taken  
12 the world by storm.

13 Many countries have been scrambling  
14 to make the best and most efficient solar panel.  
15 However, along the way lessons have been and will  
16 continue to be learned the hard way.

17 To begin, what seemed like a great  
18 and beneficial idea has become a nightmare for  
19 the climate. According to Zhengyao Lu and  
20 Benjamin Smith, co-authors of "Solar Panels in  
21 Sahara Could Boost Renewable Energy by Damaging  
22 the Global Climate - Here's Why". Quote: "Only  
23 a fraction, around 15 percent of that incoming  
24 energy gets converted to electricity. The rest  
25 is returned to the environment as heat." End

1 quote.

2 In layman's terms -- sorry -- the  
3 immediate climate around the solar farms is  
4 directly affected which is totally opposite of  
5 what Clearview Solar has been telling us since  
6 the start of this nightmare for my community,  
7 which will find that they will recant because,  
8 let's face it, they're here for the money and not  
9 the harsh reality of what solar farms can do.

10 Another source that backs up the  
11 statement of the effect solar farms can have on  
12 the climate says this: Quote: "Large solar  
13 installations affect global and regional climate  
14 by taking solar radiation and distributing it in  
15 a different manner than natural processes. In  
16 turn, the farms change local radiation balance,  
17 resulting in changes in atmospheric circulation."  
18 End quote.

19 And you'll find that the internal  
20 quote mentioned at the end of that source is from  
21 Aixue Hu of the National Atmospheric Research.  
22 Mr. Hu studied at the University of Miami from  
23 1995 to 2001, which tells me that he has a  
24 Master's degree, making him totally qualified to  
25 speak knowledgably on this topic.

1                   Hu has also conducted many different  
2 studies in regards to solar panels and their  
3 connection to climate; one such study, Quote:  
4 "Published Monday in the journals Nature Climate  
5 Change, found that solar panels tend to cause  
6 regional cooling when converting sunlight into  
7 electricity and increase urban area temperatures  
8 when said electricity transforms into heat." End  
9 quote.

10                   No matter how you write it, solar  
11 farms are bad news for our climate.

12                   At many meetings Clearview Solar has  
13 conducted we have been told and reassured that no  
14 harsh chemicals can be emitted from the panels.  
15 We have also been told countless times about the  
16 way that they are made.

17                   One thing that they haven't thought  
18 to tell us is this: The process to make these  
19 panels actually does more harm than the panels  
20 can make of up for.

21                   Quote: "Fabricating the panels  
22 requires caustic chemicals such as sodium  
23 hydroxide and hydrofluoric acid, and the process  
24 uses water as well as electricity, the production  
25 of which emits greenhouse gases. It also creates

1 waste. These problems undercut solar's ability  
2 to fight climate change and reduce environmental  
3 toxins." End quote.

4 By these standards this project  
5 cannot be considered 100 percent green. A 100  
6 percent green project wouldn't need to cause more  
7 damage to the planet than God put us on in order  
8 to look effective.

9 This is how I see it, and if you  
10 could please close your eyes and imagine it with  
11 me. Imagine that you have a large cut on your  
12 body that will require stitches. You go to the  
13 hospital where you believe they are going to  
14 patch you up and send you on your way. Instead  
15 they make your cut larger. Then they put the  
16 same number of stitches on for the previous wound  
17 on the newly enlarged one. You are  
18 understandably upset about this because the  
19 doctor you went to is world renowned and praised  
20 for his great work. You may now open your eyes.

21 The scenario that I just sent you  
22 through is similar to the production and effects  
23 of solar panels, no matter how clustered they are  
24 together. The production, which we have been  
25 told is safe, creates a bigger wound in the

1 climate yet only covers up what is promised to  
2 us.

3 Society has been told that solar  
4 panels are great and are one of the answers to  
5 our ever-growing climate issue. However, we  
6 haven't been told the effects that must happen  
7 before these miracle workers are put to use.

8 By a show of hands, how many of you  
9 are from Ohio or know firsthand how Ohio's  
10 weather is like? Some hands. For those of you  
11 that don't, allow me to give you an idea.

12 One day it could be sunny with a high  
13 of 80 and not a single cloud in sight. The next  
14 day it could be overcast all day with a high of  
15 70. These solar panels that you are very adamant  
16 on putting in around our community will not get  
17 the sunlight that they need to be effective and  
18 reach your quota in order for the project to be  
19 considered a good one.

20 According to Liza Osborn, author of  
21 "Cloudiest Cities in America", the three  
22 cloudiest cities are Cleveland, Columbus and  
23 Cincinnati. In Cleveland there are 202 days with  
24 75 percent or more cloud coverage. Columbus has  
25 190 days, and Cincinnati has 186 days. And if

1 you average those numbers out, there is an  
2 average of 192 days of the year with 75 percent  
3 or more cloud coverage leaving us with 173 days  
4 with different levels of cloud coverage.

5 Now, not all days are completely  
6 cloud covered. There are days with 25 percent or  
7 more cloud coverage. Cleveland has 192 days.  
8 Columbus has 293, and Cincinnati has 284 days.  
9 If you average that out, there are 282 with  
10 little cloud coverage, leaving us with 83 days  
11 out of the year with different levels of cloud  
12 coverage. Granted, the cities mentioned are far  
13 from small Quincy, Ohio. However, that doesn't  
14 exclude the levels of cloud coverage for your  
15 chosen location for this project.

16 Clouds don't entirely hinder cloud  
17 absorption, but it does affect the panel's  
18 ability to capture sunlight and generate power.

19 According to Cindy Johnson, author of  
20 "Are the Sun's UV Rays Really Stronger on Cloudy  
21 Days? Fact or Myth?" Quote: "Clouds can block  
22 up to 70 to 90 percent of UV-B rays during time  
23 of extreme overcast." End quote.

24 If you remember the statistics of how  
25 many days the three major cities of Ohio and



1 their days with extreme overcast, each of them  
2 experience over 190 days out of the year with a  
3 lot of cloud coverage.

4 Fog is yet another natural occurrence  
5 where levels of UV rays are limited.

6 JUDGE HICKS: Miss Smith, I just --  
7 we're trying to keep everyone to around five  
8 minutes so we're over that. And just, you can  
9 also leave a copy with the court reporter for the  
10 whole statement. So if you could move to wrap it  
11 up.

12 MS. SMITH: Well, just to summarize,  
13 the fog and clouds, average that out. There's a  
14 total of 12, just 12 where the weather is perfect  
15 for these sun rays to go into the solar panels.

16 And now that you're aware of the  
17 environment here, do you still want to plant your  
18 panels here?

19 Do you want to take that risk of  
20 looking like failures because you picked a place  
21 that isn't suitable for this project?

22 Do you really want to risk looking  
23 like that doctor?

24 To conclude, solar farms are not  
25 welcome on generational farmland because it

1 directly affects the climate around us. The  
2 production causes more harm than they can make up  
3 for. And they will not have the proper weather  
4 needed for these creations to be successful.

5 Let me leave you with this.

6 Do what is right not only for the climate but for  
7 those that are going to be directly affected by  
8 this project, not for what fattens your pocket  
9 and makes you look better amongst your  
10 colleagues.

11 Thank you.

12 JUDGE HICKS: Thank you for your  
13 testimony.

14 Up next we have Jason Baker.

15 MS. NAPIER: Your Honor --

16 JUDGE HICKS: Oh, I'm sorry.

17 MS. NAPIER: I don't have anything.

18 I don't have any questions, but a lot of people  
19 talk really fast, and I know it's very difficult  
20 for the court reporter to pick up everything they  
21 say so if you can just caution people to slow  
22 down just a bit.

23 JUDGE HICKS: Sure. I don't know if  
24 everyone heard that, but just be mindful of it  
25 might be difficult for the court reporter to pick

1 up everything you're saying.

2 I know the five-minute time limit  
3 doesn't help you in that regard so you can blame  
4 me.

5 But did you have questions for the  
6 witness?

7 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions, Your  
8 Honor. Did the court report get her address and  
9 township?

10 MS. NAPIER: No questions.

11 **JASON BAKER**

12 **being first duly sworn by the**  
13 **Judge, testifies and says as follows:**

14 JUDGE HICKS: Could you please state  
15 and spell your name for the record?

16 A. Yes. My name is Jason, J-A-S-O-N,  
17 Baker, B-A-K-E-R. My address is 3860 Towne  
18 Boulevard in Franklin, Ohio 45005.

19 JUDGE HICKS: Do you live or work in  
20 the project area?

21 MR. BAKER: No.

22 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead  
23 and present your testimony.

24 MR. BAKER: So I'm here to speak on  
25 behalf of the Operating Engineers Local Union 18.

1 On behalf of us at Local 18 Operating Engineers  
2 I'm here to support the approval of the Clearview  
3 Solar I project.

4 The Operating Engineers are the  
5 individuals who operate heavy equipment such as  
6 bulldozers, excavators, backhoes, forklifts and  
7 so on. The roads and bridges you drive on were  
8 most likely built by members of Local 18 along  
9 with our fellow Union trades men and women.

10 Although we do not have an agreement  
11 signed with Open Road Renewables to perform the  
12 work associated with the project, we believe our  
13 Local signatory contractors will secure this  
14 work, thus providing our membership with numerous  
15 employment opportunities; in turn, high-paying  
16 wages, healthcare benefits and apprenticeship  
17 programs that can continue to grow because of the  
18 solar community industry.

19 And if approved, the Clearview Solar  
20 project will not only create jobs, but you can  
21 expect an economic impact of additional tax money  
22 and clean energy for Ohio as a result of the  
23 project.

24 We encourage the Ohio Power Siting  
25 Board to support the jobs of local men and women

1 of Local 18 by approving the Clearview Solar I  
2 project.

3 Thank you, sir.

4 JUDGE HICKS: Just one second. Any  
5 questions from the applicant?

6 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions.

7 MS. NAPIER: I have a question.

8 Mr. Baker, at the last public hearing there were  
9 two individuals from a Union local. Are they  
10 affiliated with you?

11 MR. BAKER: I think maybe one other  
12 gentleman spoke up from up north, but I think  
13 there's other trades that are involved.

14 MS. NAPIER: So you don't believe it  
15 was you?

16 MR. BAKER: It wasn't me. It was  
17 probably from Local 18. Another gentleman.

18 MS. NAPIER: Thank you.

19 MR. BAKER: Yes, ma'am.

20 JUDGE HICKS: Thank you.

21 I believe up next is Dennis Schaefer.

22 **DENNIS SCHAEFER**

23 **being first duly sworn by the**

24 **Judge, testifies and says as follows:**

25 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. If you could

1 state and spell your name for the record.

2 My name is Dennis Schaefer.

3 D-E-N-N-I-S, S-C-H-A-E-F-E-R.

4 JUDGE HICKS: And if you could please  
5 give us your address and with the township.

6 MR. SCHAEFER: Yeah. We're at 4132  
7 County Road 68, Quincy, Ohio 43343.

8 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. And the township  
9 on that?

10 MR. SCHAEFER: It's in Logan County.

11 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Do you live or  
12 work in the project area?

13 MR. SCHAEFER: We own property in the  
14 project area.

15 JUDGE HICKS: Please go ahead with  
16 your testimony.

17 MR. SCHAEFER: The main thing is  
18 previously a question was asked to how much heat  
19 the project was going to be generating. And  
20 nobody that I have seen has really given an  
21 answer on the amount of heat or done an analysis  
22 as to what the effect of the heat will be.

23 In the documentation they state that  
24 the efficiency of the project will be about 17  
25 percent. Therefore, if 144 megawatts of

1 electrical energy is being generated, over 700  
2 megawatts of heat is generated. This is the  
3 equivalent of over 450,000, 15,000 watt space  
4 heaters. That's a tremendous amount of heat that  
5 I did not find any analysis as to show the effect  
6 of this heat.

7 As an electrical engineer I was  
8 always concerned with heat transmission.

9 And the other item was I was wanting  
10 on Clearview Solar site, they talk 7 -- \$38,000  
11 savings on the home energy savings. I looked at  
12 Clearview's, Ohio Energy choice, energy choice  
13 Ohio, they provide energy at 5.29 cents per  
14 kilowatt hour. They charge that \$38,000 came  
15 from, the table, talks 12 cents per kilowatt  
16 hour. So the difference is rather than 38,000 at  
17 the 5.29 percent, that would be less than 17,000.

18 And the second item on that chart was  
19 they said that the annual increase in electric  
20 rates was assumed to be 4 percent. The U.S.  
21 Bureau of Labor Statistics states that between  
22 1991 and 2021, the same 30-year period, an  
23 average inflation rate of 2 percent per year.  
24 And I -- I'm not sure how they can state 38,000  
25 over the life of the system with their

1 assumptions and this information.

2 That's all I have. Thank you.

3 JUDGE HICKS: Any questions?

4 MR. MCDONNELL: Just one question.

5 JUDGE HICKS: Give him just a second.

6 MR. MCDONNELL: Mr. Schaefer, can you  
7 tell us which township you reside in?

8 MR. SCHAEFER: It's just across Logan  
9 and Champaign County Roads. I lived in Liberty  
10 Township, Ohio.

11 MR. MCDONNELL: Where do you own land  
12 in Logan County? In which township?

13 MR. SCHAEFER: I don't keep track of  
14 all the townships.

15 MR. MCDONNELL: Thank you.

16 MR. SCHAEFER: But it's right across  
17 the Logan County line, Logan and Champaign County  
18 line.

19 **(Simultaneous talking)**

20 MR. SCHAEFER: Personally I think the  
21 people offered this information to get them to  
22 sign at a lease should check with the county  
23 prosecutor to see if the lease is valid because I  
24 don't think -- it may not even be valid -- a  
25 valid lease given this number.



1 JUDGE HICKS: Hold on, sir. Just a  
2 second.

3 Any questions?

4 MR. MCDONNELL: No further questions.

5 MR. SCHAEFER: I thought there were  
6 going to be no questions.

7 JUDGE HICKS: Counsel is permitted to  
8 ask questions of witnesses.

9 MS. NAPIER: I have no questions.

10 JUDGE HICKS: Thank you, sir.

11 Next is Randy Rose.

12 MR. ROSE: I didn't type out my  
13 notes.

14 **RANDY ROSE**

15 **being first duly sworn by the**  
16 **Judge, testifies and says as follows:**

17 JUDGE HICKS: Could you just please  
18 state and spell your name for the record?

19 MR. ROSE: My name is Randy Rose.  
20 Proper name is Robert Rose, R-O-B-E-R-T.

21 My brothers and I own a farm at 9500  
22 Champaign-Logan-Shelby County Line Road, and we  
23 signed up for the program -- the project.

24 JUDGE HICKS: But you own the farm?

25 MR. ROSE: Me and two of my brothers.

1 JUDGE HICKS: Okay.

2 MR. ROSE: And my other brother Rick  
3 is here with me today.

4 JUDGE HICKS: Did you get that  
5 address?

6 MR. ROSE: Rose, R-O-S-E, 9500  
7 Champaign-Logan-Shelby County Line Road is where  
8 our farm is at.

9 JUDGE HICKS: And do we know the  
10 township?

11 MR. ROSE: It's Adams.

12 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. So just to get  
13 it on the record --

14 MR. ROSE: We don't live there.

15 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. You live or work  
16 in the project area is the question.

17 MR. ROSE: Right, right.

18 **(Simultaneous talking).**

19 MR. ROSE: What do you want to know?

20 JUDGE HICKS: You're under oath.

21 Just answer the question. Do you live or work in  
22 the project area?

23 MR. ROSE: We're not in the project  
24 area, no.

25 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Do you live or

1 work in the project area?

2 MR. ROSE: Not in the project area,  
3 no. Sorry. I thought you said around.

4 May I?

5 JUDGE HICKS: Yes.

6 MR. ROSE: When we were first  
7 approached about this, Rick and I almost  
8 simultaneously said, the three of us, that let's  
9 look and see what kind of effect this has on our  
10 family, friends and neighbors.

11 We did a lot of research, tons of  
12 research. Some of the things we did online.  
13 Some of them are pro. Some of them are con. You  
14 got to investigate.

15 COURT REPORTER: Can you turn around?

16 JUDGE HICKS: I think if she can see  
17 you talking, it might be a little easier for her.

18 MR. ROSE: I can't see you. Sorry.  
19 I just had cataract surgery this morning.

20 But some of the issues that have come  
21 up from friends and family is the values of the  
22 property. If you look on the internet, there is  
23 no data that supports that statement.

24 Rick sold a farm between Wapak and  
25 Lima, Ohio, which is kind of in the same --

1 they're a little of ahead of us in the state.  
2 Talking to the real estate agents up there, no,  
3 they do not expect it to affect the land values,  
4 the property values.

5 Economically also is what does it do  
6 for the community? It adds several jobs. It  
7 supplies a lower rate of electricity for the  
8 community, and it helps the tax base for the  
9 community.

10 Environmentally I've heard things  
11 from it'll kill all the birds. I investigated.  
12 Solar panel farms will only kill one-tenth of one  
13 percent of the birds that fossil fuel generate  
14 stations kill. One-tenth of one percent.

15 Also environmentally -- I'm not going  
16 to argue this -- but what -- using those four  
17 cities that you used is not correct. You need to  
18 use the area we're in. There are sunny days.  
19 There's no heat that is wasted on neighbors. It  
20 is all solar by the system.

21 The other environmental thing is, you  
22 know, one of the highest areas for Glyphosate.  
23 Glyphosate is a chemical in Roundup. We're one  
24 of the highest areas in the nation because of  
25 lymphoma, non-Hodgkin's, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

1                   When lymphoma has gone up in our  
2 area -- hang on here. I can't read. Let me put  
3 this down.

4                   Been an 81 percent rise in  
5 non-Hodgkin's, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in the  
6 State of Ohio since 1987. The projection by the  
7 health department is it's going to go up two and  
8 a half percent a year for the next few years.  
9 And what that translates to, according to the  
10 department of health, that's one out of every  
11 41.2 men and one out of 50.2 women. That's part  
12 of the consideration my brothers and I put in  
13 consideration.

14                  The other thing is when you look at  
15 the future, you're right now there's 20 farms, 20  
16 solar farms in process in Ohio. In 2035,  
17 remember gasoline cars are going to be  
18 disallowed. You have to be electric.

19                  Do you know what that does to  
20 require electricity in America? It goes up 400  
21 percent a generation. More generation.

22                  Now, we could be like the farmers in  
23 Kentucky and West Virginia back in the early  
24 1900's when they refused coal mines to go in and  
25 strip the farms for coal. Guess what happened?

1 You all know what happened? The government came  
2 in and said, yes, you will.

3 The owners didn't have a choice. And  
4 because of our requirements in the future, and we  
5 gotta think about our children, our  
6 grandchildren. Requirements of electricity in  
7 the future increasing, and solar panel energy is  
8 one of the most economical, most environmental  
9 friendly going today.

10 Today there's only 2 percent solar  
11 farms or 2 percent of the power supplied by solar  
12 farms. By 2050, 2040, they expect it to be  
13 40 percent.

14 Look at what California, Texas and  
15 Florida has done so far. There's 29,000 solar  
16 farms in those three states. There's 20 in  
17 process in Ohio now. By 2050 there will be a lot  
18 more than that just because the demand is going  
19 to be there.

20 JUDGE HICKS: We're just --

21 MR. ROSE: Five minutes?

22 JUDGE HICKS: Yeah.

23 MR. ROSE: You know, like I'll say  
24 this again. We did not do this to hurt family,  
25 friends or neighbors. We did it for the future

1 of the community and the future of America so...

2 I don't have anything else.

3 JUDGE HICKS: One moment. Any  
4 questions from the applicant?

5 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions, Your  
6 Honor. Thank you.

7 MS. NAPIER: I don't have any  
8 questions. But again, I think maybe we suggest  
9 that they speak to you.

10 JUDGE HICKS: Sure.

11 MS. NAPIER: I think then she will be  
12 able to pick it up. We're just here to be heard  
13 by the Board.

14 I know it's natural to face us, but  
15 it might be better to speak to you.

16 JUDGE HICKS: Sure. And I think  
17 we're probably hearing different acoustics in  
18 different spots, too.

19 MS. NAPIER: Yeah. I know it's hard.

20 JUDGE HICKS: Do you have a question  
21 for him?

22 MS. NAPIER: I do not.

23 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Thank you for  
24 your testimony.

25 Next is Rick Rose.

1                                    RICK ROSE

2                            being first duly sworn by the  
3                    Judge, testifies and says as follows:

4                    JUDGE HICKS: Could you please state  
5                    and spell your name for the record?

6                    MR. ROSE: My name is Rick Rose,  
7                    R-I-C-K, R-O-S-E.

8                    JUDGE HICKS: And could you please  
9                    provide your address including the township?

10                    MR. ROSE: Our farm is located at  
11                    9500 Champaign Logan County -- Logan-Shelby  
12                    County Road in Adams Township.

13                    I live in Vandalia, Ohio at 1036  
14                    Taylorsview Drive, Vandalia, Ohio 45377.

15                    JUDGE HICKS: Do you live or work  
16                    within the project area?

17                    MR. ROSE: No, I don't.

18                    JUDGE HICKS: Please go ahead with  
19                    your testimony.

20                    MR. ROSE: What I would like to  
21                    say -- I'm Randy's brother, and what I'd like to  
22                    say is I'm Randy's brother, and when we was first  
23                    approached by the solar project, me, my brother  
24                    Randy, my other brother Mike got together and  
25                    said we're going to go in this with an open mind



1 when we start meeting with Clearview  
2 representatives.

3 Well, subsequently we met with the  
4 representatives several times. We went through a  
5 lot of information. We did a lot of research,  
6 asked a lot of questions. And like I said, did a  
7 lot of research.

8 Clearview was very professional the  
9 entire time.

10 And the only thing I would like to  
11 say, to add to that is I believe that our country  
12 needs to have a diversification of the energy.  
13 We can't just depend on one or two areas to  
14 provide this energy in our future. We need to  
15 search, whether it be solar, wind. And we still  
16 need our coal, and we still need our gas and oil  
17 because that's -- we need all of that to continue  
18 on.

19 And like I said, I really believe  
20 this is what our future is.

21 That's all I have.

22 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Any questions  
23 from the applicant?

24 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions, Your  
25 Honor.

1 MS. NAPIER: No questions.

2 JUDGE HICKS: Thank you.

3 Cindy Kniceley.

4 CINDY KNICELEY

5 being first duly sworn by the

6 Judge, testifies and says as follows:

7 JUDGE HICKS: Please state and spell  
8 your name for the record.

9 MS. KNICELEY: Cindy, C-I-N-D-Y.  
10 Kniceley, K-N-I-C-E-L-E-Y.

11 Address is 8718 Snapptown Road,  
12 Quincy, Ohio 43343.

13 JUDGE HICKS: And do you know the  
14 township?

15 MS. KNICELEY: Adams Township, and I  
16 live in the project.

17 JUDGE HICKS: Do you work in the  
18 project?

19 MS. KNICELEY: No.

20 JUDGE HICKS: Okay.

21 MS. KNICELEY: Well, my business is  
22 in the project; put it that way.

23 JUDGE HICKS: Go ahead with your  
24 testimony.

25 MS. KNICELEY: I kind of got to

1 wondering about some things with some drainage  
2 issues, and I guess it's more or less a question  
3 to Clearview. I know some of the drainage work  
4 has been done around that area. But I also know  
5 there's probably a lot that has not been done.  
6 And it's -- I don't know -- probably 100, 104  
7 years old.

8 My thought is, is what will become of  
9 that if some of the project has already had  
10 drainage work done on it? Some of it has not had  
11 any work done on it. What will become of that?

12 I now live by myself. My husband is  
13 deceased. And in 20, 30, 40 years of this  
14 project, I don't want drainage issues causing me  
15 at my house and my business to affect me when I  
16 become an older aged woman.

17 I was just curious what would -- is  
18 that something that you would take care of in the  
19 long run if something does happen during the  
20 process of all this or does this come back and  
21 sorry about your luck; you got to deal with it?

22 JUDGE HICKS: So I would just talk  
23 with them after. For now just provide your  
24 testimony, but certainly I'm sure they'll be  
25 available for time after -- after we're done

1 here.

2 MR. MCDONNELL: Yes, Your Honor, we'd  
3 be happy to speak with her afterwards.

4 We have no questions at this time.

5 JUDGE HICKS: If you have more  
6 testimony, go ahead.

7 MS. KNICELEY: I'm done.

8 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. And no questions  
9 from the applicant.

10 Do you have any?

11 MS. NAPIER: I just wanted to ask.  
12 If the project occurs, what would you like to see  
13 regarding drainage?

14 MS. KNICELEY: Well, as, you know,  
15 through all those fields, I mean, I'm sure that  
16 the drainage through all those fields that the  
17 project is on is all connected in some manner.  
18 So, you know, this field is directly behind my  
19 business is already done. But the field next to  
20 them to the north is not.

21 And if it's still in clay tile and  
22 not updated, and that tile blows out, so what  
23 does it do all the way back? I don't know that I  
24 would be affected, but it's -- it's a process  
25 that I don't want -- I don't want to see it

1       happen.

2                   MS. NAPIER: Thank you.

3                   JUDGE HICKS: Thank you for your  
4       testimony. I believe it's -- I don't want to  
5       butcher this -- Doreen Rose.

6                   **DOREEN ROSE**

7                   **being first duly sworn by the**

8                   **Judge, testifies and says as follows:**

9                   JUDGE HICKS: Could you please state  
10       and spell your name for the record?

11                  MS. ROSE: My name is Doreen Rose,  
12       D-O-R-E-E-N, Rose, R-O-S-E.

13                  JUDGE HICKS: Could you please  
14       provide your address including the township?

15                  MS. ROSE: We own property at 3795  
16       Logan-Shelby Road, Quincy, Ohio 43343.

17                  My home address is 807 Taylor Drive,  
18       Sidney, Ohio 45365.

19                  JUDGE HICKS: And do you live or work  
20       within the project area?

21                  MS. ROSE: Do not.

22                  JUDGE HICKS: Please go ahead with  
23       your testimony.

24                  MS. ROSE: My siblings and I own the  
25       family farm and the farm house that still sits on

1 property which is adjacent to the Adams Township  
2 property. We are situated in Miami Township of  
3 Logan County.

4 We still own the property and have it  
5 farmed, and we own the farm house, and we use  
6 that farm house daily. People are in and out of  
7 it daily.

8 We are concerned about flooding,  
9 possible, according to FEMA maps, that there  
10 could be flooding due to this project either in  
11 the construction or during operation.

12 We're also concerned about damage to  
13 field tile. We understand that the water flows  
14 go directly toward our farm. And we would like  
15 to address those questions to Open Road  
16 Renewables as in what -- if damage occurs, who is  
17 liable? Who pays?

18 How it's handled and in what time  
19 manner?

20 That is our concern. We still rely  
21 on those crops to support the farm, just like  
22 many people in this room. We do not want to see  
23 anything damaged at the farm or the buildings, of  
24 our farm house because we go there. We celebrate  
25 birthdays, holidays there, and we want to keep it

1 intact.

2 We inherited it from our family, our  
3 parents, and they bought it back in the sixties,  
4 and we've kept it since then. The siblings and I  
5 would like to continue -- I'm sorry. I would  
6 like to keep that. So those are my concerns.

7 Thank you.

8 JUDGE HICKS: Just hold it one  
9 second.

10 Do you have any questions?

11 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions, Your  
12 Honor.

13 MS. NAPIER: I just have a  
14 clarification.

15 There's been a number of people named  
16 Rose that have testified. Are you related to  
17 Randy and Rick Rose?

18 MS. ROSE: I am their second cousin.

19 MS. NAPIER: Okay. And on the  
20 property they own, that is not your property?

21 MS. ROSE: No. We own our own  
22 property. My siblings and I own our own  
23 property.

24 MS. NAPIER: And you have given a  
25 different address?

1 MS. ROSE: I would assume, correct.  
2 That's in Logan County. We're across the road  
3 from the project. We're directly north.

4 MS. NAPIER: What road is that that  
5 you're --

6 MS. ROSE: We're in the corner of  
7 Logan-Champaign and Logan-Shelby. We're right on  
8 that corner.

9 MS. NAPIER: Okay. Thank you.

10 JUDGE HICKS: Up next I believe is  
11 Paul Pullins.

12 **PAUL PULLINS**

13 **being first duly sworn by the**  
14 **Judge, testifies and says as follows:**

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

17 MR. PULLINS: Paul Pullins. Pullins,  
18 P-U-L-L-I-N-S, 12662 Shanley Road, Quincy.  
19 43343. Adams Township.

20 JUDGE HICKS: And do you live or work  
21 within the project area?

22 MR. PULLINS: No. I'm a trustee.

23 JUDGE HICKS: Okay.

24 MR. PULLINS: For Adams Township.

25 My question is -- if this proceeds



1 forward, the distribution of the money, we don't  
2 particularly feel that it's fair with what  
3 Champaign County is projected to receive.

4 The commissioners had a chance for  
5 all the windmills to make a lot more money than  
6 what will be produced here at the solar farm, and  
7 they fought it in the supreme court every time.  
8 But it comes along on the west side of the  
9 county, and they run and grab the money. They  
10 take 300,000 right off the top.

11 And then we get to distribute the  
12 rest of it. If the project is going in, more of  
13 that money needs to stay in Adams Township, not  
14 going to other projects around the county.

15 And another thing, one of the  
16 distributions for the Adams Township Fire and  
17 EMS, that 5.25 is for the millage where it shows  
18 distribution of \$92,000 that the township will  
19 receive. That expires in two years. We won't  
20 have our first check from Clearview, and it'll  
21 expire.

22 And we're putting on this fall a  
23 three mill which is going to give us 50 some  
24 thousand. And so we're going backwards all the  
25 time on money received.

1                   It just -- something needs to be  
2       worked out with us. The people in the township,  
3       the people that are going to be here and view  
4       this solar farm, work around the solar farm, all  
5       that stuff needs to keep some of that money here  
6       and not send it off to the eastern side of the  
7       county where they had a chance to get the money.

8                   And the commissioners fought it.  
9       They paid to help get it defeated at the supreme  
10      court, and it's not right to do that and then  
11      come out here and grab money off the top and  
12      leave us with the project and less money. So  
13      that's all I have.

14                  JUDGE HICKS: One second. I have a  
15      couple of questions, just a few questions.

16                  You said you were a commissioner?

17                  MR. PULLINS: Trustee.

18                  JUDGE HICKS: Trustee with --

19                  MR. PULLINS: For Adams Township.

20                  JUDGE HICKS: Adams Township trustee.

21      Okay. So my question would be are you testifying  
22      here personally --

23                  MR. PULLINS: No.

24                  JUDGE HICKS: -- or are you  
25      officially --

1 MR. PULLINS: Trustees.

2 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Those were my  
3 only questions.

4 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions, Your  
5 Honor.

6 MS. NAPIER: I think the only thing I  
7 have is this is before the Power Siting Board to  
8 approve a certificate to do the project and not a  
9 meeting with the commissioners.

10 I guess I'm asking, do you have a  
11 position for the Power Siting Board to grant or  
12 deny the certificate, I guess?

13 MR. PULLINS: Well, my understanding  
14 in the process is the commissioners and the Power  
15 Siting Board and others will have the agreement.  
16 And if the distribution -- is the distribution  
17 part of the agreement? My understanding is it is  
18 with the Power Siting Board.

19 JUDGE HICKS: Again --

20 MR. PULLINS: I forget what the legal  
21 term you call it.

22 MS. NAPIER: You should probably talk  
23 to me after since I work as their legal counsel  
24 and we'll talk about it after.

25 This is your time to, on behalf of

1       yourself for the board, the Power Siting Board  
2       needs to grant or deny that petition for the  
3       certificate.

4               MR. PULLINS: We are under the  
5       position that, that the money from the project  
6       will do the people of the township good. I'm  
7       speaking as a trustee, not personally on this.  
8       And if it's going to get passed by the Power  
9       Siting Board, it just boils down to how the money  
10      is distributed as far as the trustees are  
11      concerned.

12             We're not trying to invoke property  
13      rights on anybody. I don't think that's our  
14      position to tell people what they can and can't  
15      do with their property. But if it's -- if the  
16      funds are coming in and are generated, then the  
17      people in the township should have some say on  
18      how it's spent.

19             MS. NAPIER: I have no further  
20      questions.

21             JUDGE HICKS: Thank you. So by my  
22      quick look through, I think our last witness that  
23      has not already testified at the previous  
24      hearing, I believe, is Bruce Rungly (sic).

25             PARTICIPANT: Number 22. Yep.

1                   BRUCE RUNKLE

2                   being first duly sworn by the  
3           Judge, testifies and says as follows:

4                   JUDGE HICKS: Thank you.

5                   Could you please state and spell your  
6           name for the record?

7                   MR. RUNKLE: Bruce Runkle.

8           B-R-U-C-E. R-U-N-K-L-E.

9                   JUDGE HICKS: Could you provide your  
10          address with the township?

11                  MR. RUNKLE: 13301 State Route 29,  
12          Sidney, Ohio.

13                  JUDGE HICKS: And do you live or work  
14          within the project area?

15                  MR. RUNKLE: I'm retired. I don't  
16          work anywhere, but we have land there in the  
17          project.

18                  JUDGE HICKS: But you don't live in  
19          the project area?

20                  MR. RUNKLE: No. I live just  
21          outside.

22                  JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead  
23          with your testimony.

24                  MR. RUNKLE: Okay. The first lady  
25          that spoke said something about habitat change.

1 I know she's not as old as I am. But habitat  
2 change, since I was a little kid, it has totally  
3 changed.

4 There used to be eight, 10-acre  
5 fields that was an average field. If you had a  
6 15, 20-acre field, you had a monster. And  
7 habitat change, and that changed.

8 And another thing I wanted to comment  
9 about was we're looking for energy here, and  
10 renewable energy and alcohol is, you know, we get  
11 a lot of that. And half of the time this ground  
12 that was in there now is making or most of it is  
13 going to alcohol -- and corn and alcohol is not  
14 really the best way to do it. There's a lot of  
15 other things that would be more economical, but  
16 that's the way they do it.

17 And solar energy, I don't know how  
18 you can say it was bad or anything. One guy made  
19 the comment about it giving off extra heat. When  
20 the sunlight hits the earth, it has so much  
21 energy. And that's it. It's a finite amount of  
22 energy.

23 Now, that energy is going to be  
24 soaked up by something in the daytime. Something  
25 will absorb it or reflect it. And at nighttime

1 it will be given off and go back up into the  
2 atmosphere.

3 Now, if you've got a solar farm  
4 there, what comes down and hits the panels, it's  
5 going to electricity. So it's not going to  
6 generate any extra heat. It couldn't. Just the  
7 laws of physics.

8 And the taxes is another thing which  
9 would -- well, Paul alluded to -- there's going  
10 to be a bunch of it coming in from the project.  
11 All that farm ground is under farm use. And that  
12 will go away. When the solar project goes in,  
13 the taxes on that is going to triple. I think we  
14 get a third, two-thirds off so just the property  
15 taxes alone will triple -- and the other energy,  
16 but I don't know.

17 The solar energy project, if you look  
18 at that, and you compare it to atomic energy, you  
19 know, we're talking about atomic energy plants  
20 now. We've got several of them around.

21 But I have had a friend who died. He  
22 was from World War II, and then he worked a  
23 government job, and he messed around with the  
24 atomics a lot. And he was totally against that  
25 because the leftover products, the depleted

1        uranium, they have a half life of a million years  
2        or something. They never go away, and you've got  
3        to do something to store that.

4                When the solar energy farm shuts  
5        down, everything will be reclaimed, and it can go  
6        right back to farming, or it can go generate more  
7        energy. But my personal view is we've got to get  
8        energy where we can get it in the most efficient  
9        way possible. And in this case I think solar  
10       farm is it.

11               I'm done.

12               JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Any questions  
13       from the applicant?

14               MR. MCDONNELL: No questions, Your  
15       Honor. Thank you.

16               JUDGE HICKS: Any questions from the  
17       intervenor?

18               MS. NAPIER: No, Your Honor.

19               JUDGE HICKS: Thank you. Okay. I  
20       think that's it for folks that signed up that had  
21       not previously testified. I put it out to anyone  
22       who has not testified already that didn't sign up  
23       and would like to; give you the opportunity.

24               I would again reiterate if you've  
25       already testified, what you've already provided



1 us and testified to is already part of the public  
2 record so there is no need to provide that same  
3 testimony again.

4 Again, I'm not a police officer here.  
5 I'm not going to bar someone from speaking,  
6 coming out in this environment, but I would  
7 stress that your voice has been heard. It is  
8 already in the transcript and part of the public  
9 record so it may not be an efficient use of  
10 everyone's time to simply repeat the testimony  
11 that was already provided.

12 MR. MIKE PULLINS: I would like to  
13 share testimony from my father and mother.

14 JUDGE HICKS: Okay.

15 MR. MIKE PULLINS: In a letter that  
16 they have prepared and asked me to present at  
17 this hearing.

18 JUDGE HICKS: Okay.

19 MS. NAPIER: A writing, you're filing  
20 it today?

21 MR. MIKE PULLINS: Yes, absolutely.

22 THE WITNESS: You're just filing it  
23 or you're --

24 MR. MIKE PULLINS: No. I would like  
25 to present it. They would like to have it

1 presented --

2 JUDGE HICKS: Okay.

3 MR. MIKE PULLINS: -- on their  
4 behalf.

5 JUDGE HICKS: I'm going to go ahead  
6 and allow that under the circumstances.

7 PARTICIPANT: I have presented in the  
8 past, but I have some new information that I  
9 think is pertinent.

10 JUDGE HICKS: And I'm going to call  
11 you all. I'm just reassuring you that at the  
12 previous hearing what you said is on the record  
13 so there's no need to provide the same thing.  
14 And so I'm just going to go down the list and  
15 give you the opportunity.

16 Michael Pullins, I believe, sir,  
17 you're the one with the statements from your  
18 parents.

19 MIKE PULLINS

20 being first duly sworn by the  
21 Judge, testifies and says as follows:

22 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Could you please  
23 state and spell your name for the record?

24 Please state and spell your name for  
25 the record.

1 MR. PULLINS: Mike, M-I-K-E, Pullins,  
2 P-U-L-L-I-N-S.

3 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. I'm just going  
4 to go ahead and get your address with the  
5 township. Please provide your address with the  
6 township.

7 MR. PULLINS: With the township the  
8 address, I believe, is 9145 -- it's a farm  
9 without buildings and so on. It's a driveway.  
10 It doesn't have a farm number.

11 I own the farm on Snapptown Road  
12 right in the middle of the project, along with my  
13 wife. And so that is what I represent. It is  
14 farmed in the project area as part of the project  
15 area.

16 My address, home is 587 South Ludlow  
17 Road, Urbana, Ohio 43078.

18 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. This is a little  
19 awkward. I think we're going to have you  
20 delineate name, address of the folks that you're  
21 reading a letter for.

22 MR. PULLINS: Okay. Well, I have my  
23 own testimony, too. And I would say and  
24 reiterate, and I brought an example of  
25 diversification. And as I said before, this

1 solar project is a way to diversify our farm  
2 income.

3 And while my wife and I have built  
4 over 50 years over 1,500 acres, we worked very  
5 hard to diversify as part of our business model.  
6 And in addition to corn, wheat, soybeans, hay, we  
7 produce -- and this is what we're harvesting  
8 today, red raspberries, black raspberries,  
9 blackberries, peaches. We have an abundant peach  
10 crop this year, tomatoes, sweet corn and okra.  
11 And I've taken time away to testify here because  
12 it's important to them.

13 It's important to the community also.  
14 I graduated from Graham High School -- Steve, you  
15 remember -- 1969. Because of turning down an  
16 operating levy numerous times, all  
17 extracurricular activities were taken away.  
18 Classes were taken away.

19 50, 51 years later it hasn't changed.  
20 Financial support for Graham High School, Graham  
21 system is still tough. This project would  
22 provide a half million dollars a year, and  
23 there's not an opportunity in other ways to  
24 produce that. And the more things change, the  
25 more they stay the same, and this money is very

1 important to Graham High School and Graham  
2 system.

3 That's my own comments, and I would  
4 like to read the letter.

5 JUDGE HICKS: Well, let's pause for a  
6 second here and see if we have questions for  
7 Mr. Pullins who just testified.

8 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions, Your  
9 Honor. Thank you.

10 MS. NAPIER: I don't. I just want to  
11 clarify. Are we having the separate, your  
12 letter? I just don't know about the letter and  
13 comments together because it's hard to tell, if I  
14 have any questions, who's -- who's making this  
15 statement.

16 JUDGE HICKS: Correct. The way I  
17 envision it is, Mr. Pullins, this is your  
18 personal testimony that you just ended, and I'm  
19 asking --

20 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions.

21 JUDGE HICKS: -- if we have questions  
22 in that respect.

23 We're going to make it clear who this  
24 letter is from, where this individual lives and  
25 let you read it, and then we'll see if there are

1 other questions.

2 I thought you said you might have two  
3 letters. We'll do it on each one, which  
4 hopefully will remain clear in the record. If  
5 you can provide copies to her as well, I think  
6 that will help everyone looking at the transcript  
7 after the fact.

8 So go ahead and give us the name and  
9 address on this letter.

10 MR. MIKE PULLINS for DAVID AND PAULA  
11 PULLINS: David, D-A-V-I-D, and Paula, P-A-U-L-A,  
12 Pullins, P-U-L-L-I-N-S, 9381 Snapptown Road,  
13 Quincy, Ohio 43343.

14 JUDGE HICKS: Do you know the  
15 township?

16 MR. PULLINS: Adams Township.

17 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. So do they live  
18 or work within the project?

19 MR. PULLINS: They live right in the  
20 very epicenter of the project.

21 JUDGE HICKS: And just so we're all  
22 clear, your relationship to them is?

23 MR. PULLINS: They're my mother and  
24 father.

25 JUDGE HICKS: Okay.

1 MR. PULLINS: The Ohio Power Siting  
2 Board, we purchased our first farm in 1949 when  
3 we were only 17 and 18 years old. We moved into  
4 our first home on that property in Adams Township  
5 on February 8th, 1950. It was bitterly cold, and  
6 the only heat source we had in the house was from  
7 a coal oven.

8 Through the years we have had the  
9 opportunity to purchase adjoining acreage and  
10 Paula's childhood farms. Our farms are all  
11 mortgage free. Our farms are our life's  
12 investment.

13 We wouldn't dream of telling our  
14 children, our neighbors or anyone else how to  
15 invest their life savings. Soon we will have  
16 lived here on our farm for 72 years.

17 My father is 90 years old. My mother  
18 is 89. Our farming career has grown from helping  
19 our parents farm using horse-drawn equipment to  
20 now farming with GPS guided and computer  
21 controlled tractors and combines.

22 We have always embraced the changes  
23 and innovations the last nine decades offered us.  
24 We are continuing to embrace the innovations  
25 offered to us at this time by Clearview Solar.





1                   Our farm is our life's investment.  
2       We chose to invest in dirt instead of the stock  
3       market or any of the thousands of other  
4       investment opportunities available. That was our  
5       choice.

6                   We don't believe other people or  
7       entities should dictate to us or control what we  
8       can invest in. We would never think of telling  
9       anyone else how they should invest their life's  
10      savings.

11                  We will soon celebrate 72 years on  
12      the farm. We have paid property taxes perhaps  
13      longer than anyone else alive today in Adams  
14      Township, Ohio.

15                  Those taxes have supported our  
16      township, the school, Champaign County and the  
17      State of Ohio. We are sure these taxes have  
18      amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars over  
19      72 years.

20                  Again, why should anyone, especially  
21      those outside our neighborhood, not living in our  
22      township, county or state be able to dictate to  
23      us how we utilize our investments and our  
24      resources? These resources have generously  
25      supported our township, our schools, our

1 community and our state.

2 Everyone wants innovation and the  
3 latest and greatest technology to benefit their  
4 lives. So solar power is on the forefront right  
5 now.

6 We remember when electric and  
7 telephone lines were the latest and greatest  
8 technology coming to our farming community. Many  
9 people didn't want those lines in their  
10 neighborhoods because they were unsightly and  
11 dangerous. The "Not in My Backyard" thinkers are  
12 not new, and time will pass them by eventually.

13 We raised our seven children here on  
14 Snapptown Road and have loved living in Adams  
15 Township all these years.

16 Installing a solar farm in Adams  
17 Township will not change Adams Township. Change  
18 is inevitable. Adams Township will change with  
19 or without a solar farm installation.

20 A solar farm installation will be  
21 very beneficial to our township, our schools, our  
22 county, and our state due to the tax revenues and  
23 the clean energy it will generate.

24 Sincerely yours, David and Paula  
25 Pullins.

1 JUDGE HICKS: Questions are a little  
2 awkward in this setting, but I'll open it up.

3 MS. NAPIER I don't believe that --  
4 it's a letter coming in. I don't think there's  
5 anything to question.

6 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions.

7 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. And you have  
8 another letter?

9 MR. PULLINS: I have another letter  
10 from my sister who is a landowner in the project  
11 area also. And that is Alata, A-L-A-T-A,  
12 Pullins, P-U-L-L-I-N-S, Kallas, K-A-L-L-A-S.

13 JUDGE HICKS: And could you --

14 MR. PULLINS 100 East Drive,  
15 Northeast, Hartville, Ohio 44632. And again,  
16 they are owners of farmland in the project area  
17 and part of the project.

18 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. They do not live  
19 or work within the project?

20 MR. PULLINS: They do not live or  
21 work --

22 My sister, with my parents at age 89  
23 and 90, spends a good deal of time in the  
24 township assisting my elderly parents.

25 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead.

1 MR. MIKE PULLINS for ALATA PULLINS  
2 KALLAS: As a landowner who is participating in  
3 the Clearview Solar, I would like to share how I  
4 made the decision to participate.

5 I grew up on Snapptown Road in Adams  
6 Township, Champaign County, purchased my first  
7 farm in Champaign County in 2011. I have lived  
8 and worked outside the State of Ohio for the past  
9 39 years.

10 I have always enjoyed coming back to  
11 Ohio, and three years ago I purchased a home in  
12 Ohio and have now permanently relocated back to  
13 Ohio. I took the opportunity to purchase  
14 additional farms in 2015 and 2016 in Adams  
15 Township.

16 I see my participation in the  
17 Clearview Solar project as a way to diversify my  
18 investments and mitigate my risk against the  
19 volatile and fluctuating agricultural economy.  
20 Rather than growing commodities, we will be  
21 producing energy on the land I lease for the  
22 project.

23 I have family members who are  
24 building remote power generating systems and  
25 battery electric vehicles and who support

1 alternative energy solutions. Their equipment is  
2 currently being used throughout the United  
3 States, Mexico, Canada, as well as U.S. military  
4 applications and for R&D purposes. They work  
5 collaboratively with state and local entities and  
6 along with technology incubators to provide  
7 clean, safe energy. They are currently working  
8 with the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition.

9 Why wouldn't I support a solar farm  
10 installation in Adams Township? It is a  
11 reasonable and responsible decision that makes it  
12 benefit my family, my community with clean and  
13 renewable energy.

14 Following are just a few of the  
15 benefits that our community will receive from the  
16 installation:

17 105 million dollar investment in  
18 Champaign County during construction.

19 It will create two to three  
20 construction jobs.

21 It will create long-term jobs that  
22 will remain in the community post construction.

23 The project will create 1.3 million  
24 dollars annually for schools and local  
25 government.

1 As a business owner I strive to make  
2 decisions that will benefit my family and my  
3 community. I support the Clearview Solar project  
4 because it will definitely benefit my family and  
5 my community.

6 Best regards, Alata Pullins Kallas.

7 JUDGE HICKS: Thank you.

8 I assume no questions?

9 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions, Your  
10 Honor.

11 MS. NAPIER: I don't believe it's  
12 proper at this time.

13 JUDGE HICKS: You are free to go. We  
14 will keep going down the list. If it's  
15 duplicative testimony, I would tell you that your  
16 previous testimony stands.

17 Up next is Bill Sidders.

18 **WILLIAM SIDDER**

19 **being first duly sworn by the**

20 **Judge, testifies and says as follows:B.**

21 JUDGE HICKS: Could you please state  
22 and spell your name for the record?

23 MR. SIDDER: My legal name is  
24 William, W-I-L-L-I-A-M, Sidders, S-I-D-D-E-R-S.  
25 It's been misspelled the last time in the

1 newspaper.

2 JUDGE HICKS: Could you please  
3 provide your address with the township?

4 MR. SIDDER: 9956 Snapptown Road,  
5 Quincy, Ohio, 43343, Adams Township.

6 JUDGE HICKS: And do you live or work  
7 within the project area?

8 MR. SIDDER: Yes, I do.

9 JUDGE HICKS: Both?

10 MR. SIDDER: I'm retired, but I  
11 still live right there.

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

14 MR. SIDDER: Most of what I wanted  
15 to say was already said before, and I'll give a  
16 copy of what I wanted to say. It basically  
17 covers a lot of what I said before.

18 I have been taking some notes back  
19 here and if I can understand and read them, I do  
20 want to make a few statements.

21 My first statement is, it was my  
22 understanding this was supposed to be a hearing  
23 for the community. And I thought it was in very  
24 poor taste that the contractors were allowed to  
25 come in and be a part of this, just so that you

1 know how I feel about that.

2 It's been mentioned about "as long as  
3 it's not in my backyard, it's great." Well, I  
4 have heard some incidents in Adams Township where  
5 someone who lived out of the area where the solar  
6 farm is going to be was kind of ticked off  
7 because he couldn't get his land in it because it  
8 was in the next county. And when he was asked  
9 would you like to have it in your backyard, he  
10 said no. Okay.

11 That's the feeling I get from a lot  
12 of people. They're all for it as long as they  
13 don't have to look at it, as long as it's not in  
14 their backyard and disturbing their community.

15 Also I'd like to reemphasize here the  
16 majority of the people who have enrolled land  
17 into the solar farm don't even live anywhere near  
18 it. They live out of the county. They live out  
19 of the township. They live out of the state.  
20 And I just don't have any feelings for them. If  
21 they want to go ahead and do this, fine.

22 My only feeling is it's all about the  
23 money. And that's what this whole thing is all  
24 about.

25 There's a big push to put in all



1 these solar farms in the State of Ohio. There's  
2 anywhere from, the numbers I have heard, from 32  
3 to 84. If you look on your map there, I think --  
4 I know there's over 30 on there. That's over  
5 almost 32,000 with the largest one I believe  
6 being close to 5,000 acres, which is supposed to  
7 be the biggest one of the State of Ohio. This is  
8 small compared to that, but they continue to do  
9 this. And the reason why they're pushing it is  
10 because of the President's green new deal, and  
11 everything is being subsidized by the government  
12 which is your tax money.

13 It's a known fact that solar farms  
14 are only productive for about five hours a day  
15 peak, and that's only at 20 percent efficiency.  
16 I do not believe that solar farms are the most  
17 efficient way to generate electricity.

18 You take up all this farm ground, and  
19 most of it is prime farm ground, good-producing  
20 farm ground, and you're putting these solar farms  
21 on there for 30 to 40 years, and at the end of  
22 that, do you really believe they're going to come  
23 and reclaim all that for you? You better hold  
24 onto a bunch of that money because they may not.  
25 You may be stuck with a field full of junk.

1                   You don't know what the future is  
2                   going to be.

3                   Also the weather patterns in the last  
4                   few years have changed dramatically. There are  
5                   big droughts coming eastward across the country.

6                   Do you really want to give up  
7                   good-producing farm ground at the risk of maybe  
8                   not having any farm ground one of these days?  
9                   Because once you put them solar panels on they're  
10                  there for 30 to 40 years, whether you want them  
11                  or not.

12                  There's a lot of unknowns about solar  
13                  farms. We don't know how they're going to affect  
14                  atmosphere. We don't know how they're going to  
15                  affect the wildlife in the area. But we're going  
16                  to find out if you put these in.

17                  Just remember, in the future when you  
18                  go to the store and your prices are going higher  
19                  and higher and higher because there's less and  
20                  less farm ground, don't complain to me about it.

21                  And when it comes right down to it, I  
22                  don't think it's fair that the county gets to  
23                  decide what goes into the township and the  
24                  community where we live. We should be the ones  
25                  allowed to make the decision, not somebody who's

1 off somewhere else, who really could care less  
2 about what our land looks like out there, what we  
3 have to look at every day when we go to town.

4 And I'm not really sure about the tax  
5 situation on this. It's my understanding that  
6 the company that puts this solar farm is going to  
7 pay the real estate taxes on this.

8 Is that part of that one mill or half  
9 million dollars that you're going to give to the  
10 county?

11 Is it tax money that's already being  
12 sent to the county, or is this a combination of  
13 generated -- generated from the money that you're  
14 going to make off of it plus the taxes that  
15 already being paid into it anyhow? I'd like  
16 clarification on that.

17 I believe I had my say. I am wholly  
18 against solar farms. I think farm ground should  
19 stay farm ground. It's took generations and  
20 generations of farmers many, many years as much  
21 as 100, 200 years to clear this land and make it  
22 good, productive farm ground to produce food to  
23 feed the world. And the world is still going  
24 hungry.

25 Thank you.

1 JUDGE HICKS: Does the applicant have  
2 any questions?

3 MR. MCDONNELL: Just in which  
4 township do you reside?

5 MR. SIDDER: Adams.

6 MR. MCDONNELL: Thank you.

7 MS. NAPIER: No questions.

8 JUDGE HICKS: Thank you. Next is  
9 Patrick Hook.

10 **PATRICK HOOK**

11 **being first duly sworn by the**  
12 **Judge, testifies and says as follows:**

13 JUDGE HICKS: Could you please state  
14 and spell your name for the record?

15 MR. HOOK: Patrick Hook.

16 P-A-T-R-I-C-K. H-O-O-K.

17 JUDGE HICKS: Could you please  
18 provide your address?

19 MR. HOOK: 1502 Glenn Avenue,  
20 Columbus, Ohio, Franklin County, Franklin  
21 Township.

22 JUDGE HICKS: And do you live or work  
23 within the project?

24 MR. HOOK: I do not live, but I  
25 represent electrical workers that work in this

1 area.

2 JUDGE HICKS: Within the project  
3 area?

4 MR. HOOK: Yes.

5 JUDGE HICKS: Please go ahead with  
6 your testimony.

7 MR. HOOK: Thank you. Good evening.

8 My name is Patrick Hook. I'm the  
9 business manager and long-time member of the  
10 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,  
11 Local 683.

12 Local 683 has jurisdiction in central  
13 Ohio including Champaign County. I've watched  
14 the transition from coal generation to generation  
15 with lower or no carbon emissions such as solar.  
16 Our rural areas with vast farmland is  
17 particularly suited to be a great area for this  
18 project. I speak in complete support for the  
19 jobs the Clearview Solar will provide.

20 The hundreds of direct jobs will have  
21 a lasting impact on our area. I know that the  
22 IBEW stands ready to provide the workers  
23 necessary to complete the project in a safe,  
24 timely manner.

25 It is also our intention that if

1 given the opportunity, these jobs will be the  
2 start of long careers in the electrical industry,  
3 good paying, steady jobs with benefits. Jobs  
4 that this entire area is in need of.

5 Thank you for your time this evening.  
6 I look forward to working with the Clearview  
7 Solar project and the Ohio Power Board, providing  
8 any information I could to ensure this project  
9 moves forward.

10 Thank you.

11 JUDGE HICKS: Any questions from the  
12 applicant?

13 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions.

14 MS. NAPIER: Just for clarification,  
15 did you testify prior to this hearing?

16 MR. HOOK: Yes.

17 MS. NAPIER: I thought you looked  
18 familiar. And I believe I asked you some  
19 questions in that as well.

20 Do you have any thoughts for or  
21 against where this project resides or where this  
22 project will be laid out?

23 MR. HOOK: Not necessarily.

24 MS. NAPIER: As opposed to any other  
25 place?

1 MR. HOOK: No.

2 MS. NAPIER: So you don't have any  
3 thoughts about this place is a good lplace versus  
4 another place?

5 MR. HOOK: Well, I think this is a  
6 good spot for this project.

7 MS. NAPIER: But you testified just  
8 about jobs?

9 MR. HOOK: Yes, basically.

10 MS. NAPIER: I have no further  
11 questions.

12 JUDGE HICKS: All right. We're going  
13 to go a little unscripted here. A new witness,  
14 Tim Harmon.

15 **TIM HARMON**

16 **being first duly sworn by the**  
17 **Judge, testifies and says as follows:**

18 JUDGE HICKS: Could you please state  
19 and spell your name for the record?

20 MR. HARMON: Tim Harmon, T-I-M,  
21 H-A-R-M-O-N, 13561 Township Road 3, Quincy.

22 JUDGE HICKS: And the township?

23 MR. HARMON: Adams.

24 JUDGE HICKS: And do you live or work  
25 within the project area?

1 MR. HARMON: Yes. Live.

2 JUDGE HICKS: Live. Okay. Go ahead.

3 MR. HARMON: Everybody is talking  
4 about cheap, renewable energy. I would like to  
5 ask Clearview, did you offer to buy any of this  
6 property off of the farmers? Because according  
7 to my math, and I'm just using round numbers  
8 here, if you're giving them a thousand dollars an  
9 acre, and they got a thousand acres, how much is  
10 that? Ten million.

11 How much would it cost to buy that  
12 ground?

13 Would these farmers sell that ground  
14 for ten million dollars?

15 You're paying 75 percent more, you  
16 know, 40 million dollars. Are you guys following  
17 what I'm saying here? I see that confused look  
18 that.

19 JUDGE HICKS: First of all, I don't  
20 believe that -- I'm not sure who they are. But  
21 just testify. I don't believe that --

22 **(Simultaneous talking)**

23 JUDGE HICKS: -- number one, but no  
24 back and forth. You just provide your testimony.

25 If you have questions for the company



1 after, representatives will --

2 (Simultaneous talking)

3 MR. HARMON: Let's say on average  
4 farm ground goes for \$10,000 an acre, and you've  
5 got a thousand acres. That's ten million  
6 dollars.

7 Why didn't you buy these farmers out  
8 for ten million dollars? If you're going -- like  
9 I said, I'm just using round numbers.

10 This is a 40-year project. You got a  
11 thousand acres in it. 40 years times that  
12 thousand is 40 million dollars.

13 Is anybody following me, what I'm  
14 saying here? The only ones profiting off of this  
15 is these farmers.

16 Question two, can anybody tell me how  
17 many employees are going to be working on this  
18 project?

19 And if you've got that number, are  
20 they local?

21 Are they coming in from out of state?

22 Do we need to worry about COVID?

23 Another question. How many posts are  
24 going in the ground?

25 What is the average number of posts

1 that needs put in the ground in nine months to  
2 one year to complete this project?

3 I work with numbers, and your numbers  
4 just don't add up to me.

5 Mike, how much would you take for  
6 your farm ground today on Snapptown Road?

7 MR. PULLINS: It's not for sale.

8 **(Simultaneous talking)**

9 JUDGE HICKS: Sir, sir, just provide  
10 your testimony.

11 MR. HARMON: I'm trying to get there.

12 JUDGE HICKS: Understood. Just the  
13 back and forth we can't do. We can't pick it up.

14 MR. HARMON: Well, like I said, the  
15 only ones profiting off of this is the farmers in  
16 the area. The rest of us are getting the shaft  
17 as far as I'm concerned.

18 I'm not against renewable, but where  
19 it's going is the wrong place.

20 The southern part of Ohio, Ohio Coal  
21 Company down there, all that AP ground ain't  
22 nothing but pure grass fields. Why can't it go  
23 there? It's not being farmed. Why are we in our  
24 neighborhood? Anybody?

25 JUDGE HICKS: Again, I would just --

1       you're free to make your statements.

2               If you have specific questions, go  
3 ahead and direct them afterwards to  
4 representatives of the company.

5               MR. HARMON: Who are they? These  
6 guys?

7               PARTICIPANT: Right here.

8               MR. MCDONNELL: Your Honor, we're  
9 happy to take questions afterwards.

10              MR. HARMON: Well, I want questions  
11 now answered in front of everybody.

12              How many posts are going into this  
13 project?

14              Do you have an estimate?

15              JUDGE HICKS: Sir, you can have a  
16 discussion with them afterwards. The back and  
17 forth --

18              MR. HARMON: I'm not back and forth.  
19 I just want to know how many posts are going in  
20 and how many posts do you have to average per day  
21 to put in there?

22              JUDGE HICKS: Okay. And I encourage  
23 you to ask. I'm sure, I see nods that they're  
24 willing to discuss that with you.

25              MR. MCDONNELL: After the hearing is

1 concluded, the company is happy to talk with you  
2 after you're finished testifying.

3 MR. HARMON: I don't know if that  
4 satisfies me.

5 See, what I'm afraid of is what if  
6 this drags out for three or four years?

7 JUDGE HICKS: Sir, again, this is to  
8 provide your thoughts on the project.

9 MR. HARMON: I'm done.

10 JUDGE HICKS: One second, sir.

11 We may have questions from counsel  
12 here for you.

13 MS. NAPIER: I do have a question  
14 just because I think you -- I think you believed  
15 this is a question and answer, and it's not. But  
16 I think, I think that the Power Siting Board, who  
17 will read the transcript that the court reporter  
18 will transcribe, what are your concerns or your  
19 thoughts about this project? Not -- please don't  
20 ask it by question, but if you can answer that  
21 question, that would be fine.

22 MR. HARMON: Depreciation of land  
23 value. This all used to be swamp ground and I  
24 look for the tiles to get all screwed up.

25 I moved up in that part of the

1 country to have a nice, quiet lifestyle, not to  
2 have equipment looking running around, not to  
3 look at a nasty fence, not to look at solar  
4 panels.

5 So you have completely crushed my  
6 life. And I'm supposed to live with it so these  
7 farmers can make their money? I don't like it.  
8 That's all I got to say.

9 MS. NAPIER: That's fine. I'm  
10 finished.

11 JUDGE HICKS: Thank you. Next is  
12 Jaimi Sparks-Baker.

13 **JAIMI SPARKS-BAKER**  
14 **being first duly sworn by the**  
15 **Judge, testifies and says as follows:**

16 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Please state and  
17 spell your name for the record.

18 MS. SPARKS-BAKER: Jaimi Sparks-Baker.  
19 J-A-I-M-I, S-P-A-R-K-S, B-A-K-E-R.

20 JUDGE HICKS: And if you could please  
21 provide your address including the township.

22 MS. SPARKS-BAKER: 9456 Snapptown  
23 Road, Quincy, Ohio 43343. It is in Adams  
24 Township.

25 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. And do you live

1 or work within the project area?

2 MS. BAKER: I live within the project  
3 area.

4 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead.

5 MS. SPARKS-BAKER: This -- first of  
6 all, is a copy of some of what I'm going to say,  
7 but I may have other things to say that aren't on  
8 there too.

9 And I did testify at the last one,  
10 but this is different testimony with additional  
11 information that I have come across.

12 So I live at 9456 Snapptown Road with  
13 my husband and my three children. I'm the third  
14 generation to own this farm.

15 We have many concerns about the  
16 proposed Open Road Solar Farm project. I hope  
17 that you will take these into consideration when  
18 making your decision.

19 My first concern is the pollution of  
20 the groundwater in the project area. These  
21 panels are made with toxic chemicals such as  
22 Cadmium Tellride, Cadmium Selenide, Copper -- I  
23 will butcher these I'm sure -- Copper Indium  
24 Selenide -- I can't even try this next one --  
25 Lead, and Polyvinyl Fluoride.

1                   In addition to these toxic materials  
2                   in the panels themselves, the substation is being  
3                   placed right over the top of the aquifer that  
4                   feeds the Village of Quincy. This substation is  
5                   also right behind Indian Creek that runs through  
6                   many of the nonparticipating farms.

7                   The company said that the panels  
8                   themselves do not leach into the water. But if  
9                   one of these are damaged, the materials they are  
10                  made of will mix with rain water, and then that  
11                  will cause runoff that goes into water tables and  
12                  into Indian Creek.

13                 The applications that the company  
14                 submitted states the water tables are lower than  
15                 they actually are. In some places in the  
16                 surrounding areas the water table is only six  
17                 feet. Also on Snapptown Road there is a well  
18                 drilling company, Knisley's Well Drilling. They  
19                 have a feeder well. A feeder well is used to  
20                 fill up all the wells that they drill for other  
21                 people. And if this well is contaminated, it  
22                 would have hazardous effects on a large portion  
23                 of the community.

24                 The project area is flat and windy,  
25                 and a lot of damage is done to structures when

1 storms blow through. I do not want to risk the  
2 health of myself, my children and my neighbors  
3 if one of the panels is damaged and the  
4 cancer-causing materials get into our  
5 groundwater.

6 We asked for tester wells to be put  
7 in to ensure that we catch these chemicals in the  
8 groundwater, and the company stated that they  
9 might be able to do that. But that did not  
10 happen.

11 We also have concerns about the  
12 health effect of the magnetic wave that they have  
13 on the radiation from the panels. The website,  
14 solarfarms.com states many negative health  
15 effects from such magnetic waves.

16 In one of the public meetings with  
17 the company, we stated this concern, and they  
18 said that they would look into putting a shield  
19 over the inverters. Again, this did not happen.

20 In addition to health effects on  
21 human life, I am also concerned about the effect  
22 on the environment. Some of us community members  
23 visited the solar farm in Piqua and spoke with  
24 the surrounding residents. These residents  
25 stated there is no insects or birds in the solar



1 farm area. This is because of the magnetic waves  
2 and the heat that radiates from the solar power  
3 -- panels.

4 At energysage.com and wired.com  
5 states that the panels produce heat up to 149  
6 degrees and kills 140,000 birds annually. This  
7 is especially concerning because we have  
8 endangered species such as African Brown Bats,  
9 Cardinals, Monarch Butterflies and even an Eagle  
10 in the project area.

11 My family and I myself have seen  
12 these species on our farm and on neighboring  
13 farms. The Open Road Company said that they  
14 would put up fences around the panels. My  
15 concern with that is that it will trap wildlife  
16 and funnel coyotes right onto our farm  
17 endangering our livestock.

18 The installation of the fences and  
19 the solar panels themselves may also damage field  
20 tile -- I know that that has been brought up --  
21 that runs through many nonparticipating farms.  
22 This could cause flooding in these fields,  
23 ruining crops.

24 Most of the people who leased land  
25 for this project do not live in the area. They

1 are not living -- they are not going to feel the  
2 negative effects from the solar farm.

3 The company was asked several times  
4 at public meetings to back the project boundaries  
5 up away from the nonparticipating landowners'  
6 homes and property lines. I was at these  
7 meetings in Rosewood right here where they were  
8 asked to do this. And I asked for that change  
9 myself. They said that they would, but then in  
10 the Urbana paper Mr. Herling was quoted saying  
11 that being too close to the property line and  
12 homes was never brought up.

13 And in addition to all of the  
14 previous reasons to not allow the solar farm  
15 project, the solar farm will decrease the value  
16 of our property 20 percent -- and I got that from  
17 speaking to a loan officer at the bank -- and  
18 take up prime farmland. With the current  
19 population growth, we need more farmland, not  
20 less.

21 When this solar farm is taken down,  
22 it will take many years to get the land back to  
23 producing the yield that it produces today. They  
24 could go to areas that would have less impact on  
25 farmland.

1 I know the project promises that they  
2 will remove the solar panels after 40 years have  
3 passed, and the land will be returned to farming.  
4 But what happens if the company folds? These are  
5 rhetorical.

6 What happens if the company folds?  
7 And then who will remove the panels? 40 years is  
8 a long time to keep the company accountable.  
9 There are many things that could happen  
10 preventing them from upholding this promise to  
11 remove the panels.

12 If the landowners have to remove the  
13 panels, they cannot even dispose of them because  
14 they require a hazardous waste facility because  
15 of the toxic materials that they are made of.  
16 There are very few of these facilities that will  
17 take the toxic panels.

18 There have been unkept promises from  
19 Open Road Company. A few of these were stated in  
20 this letter. And it would be detrimental to our  
21 community if the proper removal of the panels was  
22 one of these unkept promises in the future.

23 Every other structure that community  
24 member wants to build has to go through the  
25 township for approval. When speaking with

1 Senator Jim Jordan's office, I found out that  
2 there is currently a bill being considered to  
3 give the local level more of a say in the  
4 installation of the solar farms. I ask that we  
5 at least postpone this project so the community  
6 that is being affected gets a chance to vote on  
7 its installation.

8 Also --

9 JUDGE HICKS: If you could just --  
10 we're past the five.

11 MS. SPARKS-BAKER: Oh, sorry.

12 JUDGE HICKS: Just move to wrap up,  
13 please.

14 MS. SPARKS-BAKER: Okay. I just also  
15 wanted to mention that they've had workers  
16 already coming out and working, the Open Road has  
17 on farmland, and they have already trespassed on  
18 fields and trampled beans and used a lane that  
19 don't belong to the correct farmer to get onto  
20 the property. And so if that's happening with  
21 just a few workers that's been out there doing  
22 the work, what's going to happen when we have a  
23 ton of workers out there to do the work?

24 We probably shouldn't have our  
25 property trespassed on. We have rights to not

1 have that happening. It's already happening so  
2 I'm sure that will get worse as the project  
3 develops.

4 Thank you for taking the time to  
5 listen.

6 JUDGE HICKS: Any questions?

7 MR. MCDONNELL: No, Your Honor.

8 MS. NAPIER: No.

9 JUDGE HICKS: Next is Reenie Elliott.

10 **REENIE ELLIOTT**

11 **being first duly sworn by the**

12 **Judge, testifies and says as follows:**

13 JUDGE HICKS: Please state and spell  
14 your name for the record.

15 MS. ELLIOTT: My name is Reenie  
16 Elliott, R-E-E-N-I-E, E-L-L-I-O-T-T.

17 I live on 9525 Snapptown Road,  
18 Quincy, Ohio 43343.

19 JUDGE HICKS: And the township?

20 MS. ELLIOTT: Adams.

21 JUDGE HICKS: And you said you --  
22 just to get this on the record, do you live or  
23 work within the project area?

24 MS. ELLIOTT: I live in the area.

25 JUDGE HICKS: In the project area?

1 MS. ELLIOTT: Yes, yes.

2 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead  
3 with your testimony.

4 MS. ELLIOTT: Here's this, and then I  
5 have this one, too, from someone else. But my  
6 name is Reenie Elliott. I own and live on land  
7 at 9525 Snapptown Road. I am writing this letter  
8 in opposition of the Open Road farm project.

9 I feel that more concern needs to be  
10 given to those living in the project area. Many  
11 have lived here for many years and -- excuse  
12 me -- the family farms have been our homes for  
13 generations, mine being one of them.

14 And only one family who is leasing  
15 this land actually lives in the project area.

16 Many years have been spent preparing  
17 this land for farming which was desired by our  
18 government. With the current growth of the  
19 population, farmland is valuable.

20 Farmland is being destroyed, and our  
21 property value is decreasing. Open Road says it  
22 can go right back to farmland after 40 years, but  
23 in order to get the yield we are currently  
24 getting, it will take a long time to rework the  
25 land. It doesn't make sense to take -- to take

1 it away for solar energy that doesn't even  
2 benefit the people who live in direct proximity  
3 to it.

4 I am not opposed to green energy but  
5 destroying good farmland which is feeding our  
6 country is not a wise decision.

7 Secondly, the materials used to make  
8 the solar panels is hazardous, and I think Jaimi  
9 talked about that.

10 We talked about the destruction of  
11 the animals, the waterways and health being a  
12 concern. The concerns that are used to make the  
13 panels are cancer-causing. I'm sorry. I'm  
14 trying to go on. That was mentioned. Okay.

15 Another concern I have is the  
16 consistency in what the Open Road Company has  
17 been telling members of the community. One  
18 example of this is the comment I read in the  
19 Urbana paper from the last public meeting  
20 concerning the distance the project line is from  
21 the homes and the property lines of  
22 nonparticipating landowners. And I know Jaimi  
23 talked about that, too.

24 And I attended all the meetings, and  
25 it's been brought up at the public meeting and

1 even personal phone calls to the company. I  
2 myself have called and voiced a concern and told  
3 they would be -- try to back the project up, the  
4 lines from our homes.

5 Open Roads, Mr. Herling I believe was  
6 the one that was stated in the Urbana paper, that  
7 they said -- they also failed to mention that  
8 they will transfer the project to another company  
9 after the construction is done. That has not  
10 been mentioned.

11 Open Road has made and maintained the  
12 project area. If the solar farm project passes,  
13 the distance the project line is from our homes  
14 should -- that should be reexamined. They are  
15 ways to -- there are way too close to our houses.

16 My final concern is the workers that  
17 will be brought in will trespass on the property,  
18 which Jaimi also brought that up so I don't need  
19 to mention that again.

20 But at one point they said there was  
21 like 200 and some workers coming in. They're  
22 having trouble with the few that come out because  
23 of the communication. I don't think they're  
24 purposely doing it, but they are not being  
25 communicated to, and so they're walking on the



1 people's properties. So that's going to be real  
2 tough if you get 200 of them.

3 All of this started by a desire for  
4 the money, and I feel the possibilities for a  
5 hazardous outcome was not a large concern. No  
6 consideration was given to the people living in  
7 our farming community.

8 And also the small envelope I have  
9 there, I'm aware of the person that is leasing  
10 land to the project that would like to back out  
11 of their contract because they were given all of  
12 the information by the company before signing.  
13 They didn't get all the information. They're now  
14 learning about other things that they are opposed  
15 to. Their name is already on the contract, and  
16 unfortunately they cannot get out of the lease,  
17 but I think it's important that you know that;  
18 that you do have someone that has signed up, and  
19 they're very disappointed. Unfortunately you  
20 can't go backwards and redo sometimes in life.

21 JUDGE HICKS: Hold on.

22 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions. Thank  
23 you, Your Honor.

24 MS. NAPIER: No questions.

25 JUDGE HICKS: Thank you. Next is

1 Kathy Rose Schaefer.

2 KATHY ROSE SCHAEFER

3 being first duly sworn by the  
4 Judge, testifies and says as follows:

5 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Can you please  
6 state and spell your name?

7 MS. SCHAEFER: Kathy, K-A-T-H-Y,  
8 Rose, R-O-S-E, Schaefer, S-C-H-A-E-F-E-R.

9 And I reside at 6078 Edington Street  
10 which is in Liberty Township, Ohio, and we own  
11 and operate a farm at 4132 County Road 68,  
12 Quincy. It's a 140 acre farm. We maintain a  
13 family farm house that we do live in when we  
14 operate the farm. So it's not our 24/7.

15 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. So just clearly  
16 for the record, do you live or work in the  
17 project area?

18 MS. SCHAEFER: No, no.

19 JUDGE HICKS: Please go ahead.

20 MS. SCHAEFER: Okay. I'm Kathy Rose  
21 Schaefer. And as you probably have heard,  
22 there's a lot of Roses. These are all my  
23 cousins. We grew up together.

24 I grew up on that farm. It was  
25 purchased by my grandfather in 1929, and it has

1        been farmed with -- I'm sorry -- farmed with  
2        corn, wheat and soybeans since that time. Matter  
3        of fact, he went to school right here on this  
4        site, Adams Township school. And when he bought  
5        the farm in 1929, he moved to that location.

6                We are fortunate to be a part of a  
7        very productive farming community, and they care  
8        about the land, and they care about the  
9        production of food.

10               The farmland that we own is directly  
11       adjacent to the site proposal. We are -- we have  
12       a 66-acre field that's adjacent to Logan  
13       County -- Champaign County-Logan County Line. If  
14       you were standing in that field, and you walked  
15       across the County Road Line, you would be  
16       standing in the proposed site. So we are really  
17       concerned about the water flow. That's what I  
18       mainly want to talk about today.

19               We really think that a thousand acre  
20       solar panel farm is going to change the  
21       environment. And my main concern is the water  
22       flow. In the early spring, March and April, I  
23       have seen water roll downhill from County Road 68  
24       across our fields, across our front yard into our  
25       pasture field and into Indian Creek.

1                   At that time with heavy rains it  
2                   floods. I have practically a lake in my pasture  
3                   field and in my front yard. It does quickly  
4                   drain off because we have water management. We  
5                   manage the water around our farm. It currently  
6                   is being managed.

7                   Clearview has stated in their  
8                   application that the water table -- water table  
9                   is at 25 feet, but this is not true for the  
10                  entire area. On our property the water table is  
11                  at 6 feet.

12                 We had to have a French drain put in  
13                 on the south part of our property to keep the  
14                 water from coming into the basement of the house.  
15                 Currently we are managing everything. But I am  
16                 very concerned that once this solar project is  
17                 built, our entire water management system is  
18                 going to be shot. I have some attachments that I  
19                 sent them by e-mail to your office. Okay?

20                 So I'll go ahead and use these.

21                 JUDGE HICKS: You can leave them with  
22                 her when you're done as well.

23                 MS. SCHAEFER: This is going to be  
24                 hard to see, but most of you probably recognize  
25                 this is the USDA document map that you receive

1 when you state how many acres of crops you are  
2 farming. And on this -- I'm going to get  
3 closer -- on this map here is a -- whoops -- here  
4 is a picture of our waterway. And if you went to  
5 Google Earth, you can see that waterway. So the  
6 water is flowing over County Road 68 and County  
7 Line Road, and it comes down here, and our farm  
8 is right down at the bottom of County Road 68 at  
9 the bottom of the hill.

10 My major concern is where's this  
11 water going to be going once we have the solar  
12 panels in position?

13 My next concern revolves around  
14 water. This is the map that you can find online  
15 from Clearview. It's the site map. And I have  
16 circled at the top here, this is Indian Creek.

17 Why are we building a solar panel  
18 farm on top of Indian Creek? There was a water  
19 study done for the application, and in the study  
20 it did say Indian Creek is the major drainage  
21 site for that project. So the water is going to  
22 be draining into Indian Creek coming down the  
23 hill into my township in Logan County, across my  
24 farms, across the Heath farms, across 706, and  
25 this Indian Creek flows across 706, east of

1       Pemberton, and then it goes into the Great Miami  
2       River.

3               I have a great concern of what's  
4       going to be in that water once this solar panel  
5       project is complete.

6               The second thing I want to talk about  
7       isn't quite as important as the water issue, but  
8       it is of concern to me. All of us who have grown  
9       up in -

10              JUDGE HICKS: We're about at the  
11      five.

12              MS. SCHAEFER: I know. The three  
13      county area know that there are Indian artifacts  
14      buried on our land. I have a huge collection,  
15      and my father has collected over the years from  
16      farming. And I have no doubt that what is in the  
17      site area will also be found to have Indian  
18      artifacts.

19              So I guess the bottom line the  
20      reality for us is how the water is going to  
21      affect our farm and how much money am I going to  
22      have to budget every year to fix the problems  
23      caused by this solar project?

24              For environmental reasons I'm asking  
25      the decision makers to vote against the

1 construction of the Clearview solar project.

2 JUDGE HICKS: Any questions?

3 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions.

4 MS. NAPIER: No questions.

5 JUDGE HICKS: Next witness is Mark  
6 Heath.

7 **MARK HEATH**

8 **being first duly sworn by the**

9 **Judge, testifies and says as follows:**

10 JUDGE HICKS: Please state and spell  
11 your name for the record.

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

14 JUDGE HICKS: And could you give us  
15 your address and the township?

16 MR. HEATH: I live at 9909 State  
17 Route 235, Quincy, 43343. Adams Township.

18 JUDGE HICKS: And do you live or work  
19 within the project?

20 MR. HEATH: I live within the project  
21 and work both.

22 JUDGE HICKS: Please go ahead.

23 MR. HEATH: I'm an area farmer, and I  
24 really don't understand some of the farmers that  
25 agree to these. I'm totally against it.

1 I've resided at this place ever since  
2 1977, and it's 44 years there. And I built an  
3 operation for my younger son and my older son and  
4 my grandson to carry on. I'm still working,  
5 building this.

6 And I can't visualize this solar  
7 thing being anything but destructing to the area  
8 for tile, drainage, you know. And there's -- you  
9 guys have heard all of this from everybody else,  
10 but I'm just really concerned about this.

11 This is not the way we need to go.  
12 Yes, we need alternative power, but I don't think  
13 it belongs right out my front driveway that I  
14 have to look at it, farm around it and deal with  
15 it.

16 We talked to -- these guys about  
17 bringing jobs in. What about the jobs for us  
18 guys right here, farming this land?

19 Where are we going to go from there,  
20 huh?

21 You get to destroy us. What's going  
22 to happen? That's all I have.

23 JUDGE HICKS: Thank you. Just one  
24 second. Any questions?

25 MR. MCDONNELL: No question.



1 MS. NAPIER: No questions.

2 JUDGE HICKS: Thank you. Up next I  
3 think it's Lyn Davidson.

4 PARTICIPANT: I don't have additional  
5 testimony from what I did before.

6 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Lee Davidson.

7 PARTICIPANT: I don't have anything  
8 new besides what I testified to before.

9 JUDGE HICKS: And again, to what you  
10 previously testified is part of the record.

11 I think there's one on here left.  
12 Nathan Persinger.

13 **NATHAN PERSINGER**

14 **being first duly sworn by the**

15 **Judge, testifies and says as follows:**

16 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Will you please  
17 state and spell your name for the record?

18 MR. PERSINGER: My name is Nathan  
19 Persinger, N-A-T-H-A-N, P-E-R-S-I-N-G-E-R.

20 JUDGE HICKS: And could you give us  
21 your address with the township?

22 MR. PERSINGER: My address is 9084  
23 Snapptown Road, Quincy, Ohio.

24 JUDGE HICKS: And the township?

25 MR. PERSINGER: Adams.

1 JUDGE HICKS: And do you live or work  
2 within the project area?

3 MR. PERSINGER: I do.

4 JUDGE HICKS: Both?

5 MR. PERSINGER: I live and have a  
6 construction business there.

7 JUDGE HICKS: Okay. Please go ahead  
8 with your testimony.

9 MR. PERSINGER: Well, first to the  
10 Ohio Siting Board, I see maybe one commissioner  
11 here. I was hoping to see all three being as  
12 SB52 has passed our legislature. I was looking  
13 to them to stick up for us a little bit here in  
14 this corner of the township. Disappointed that  
15 they're not. I do think they should be included  
16 and should represent our views.

17 Another point is I don't think the  
18 Ohio Siting Board should ever never had  
19 jurisdiction over solar panels. Solar panels  
20 have never -- shouldn't ever be considered a  
21 viable utility grade power source. They only  
22 produce at best 20 to 23 percent efficient.  
23 They're only 20 to 23 efficient.

24 If you're going to put something in  
25 production to support the community, you don't

1 put a bunch of solar panels in one spot to  
2 collect all the energy for everybody else.

3 The better way to use solar panels is  
4 on everybody's house. Everybody buy their own  
5 panels, invest their money. The government has  
6 given you 26 percent of the cost to do this for  
7 yourselves.

8 And we're letting some company from  
9 out of state come in and reap all the benefits,  
10 and then our government gets to hand a little bit  
11 back to the community. If this is such a good  
12 deal, put your money up and build it yourself.  
13 Make all the money. What are you doing with  
14 outside investors? Geesh!

15 There's better places for solar  
16 panels. There's thousands of better places to  
17 put solar panels. I mentioned maybe they should  
18 be regulated by the county building department  
19 because they should be tied to structure. They  
20 all have to have a foundation. They're going to  
21 put these panels thousands and millions of them  
22 in a field supported on two-inch posts.

23 There's no -- the engineering doesn't  
24 make sense. A million foot wing with wind coming  
25 over that thing will pick them up and take them

1       wherever. There's no way they can tie them down  
2       without a foundation.

3               And to do it on prime land just  
4       deepens the error.

5               70 percent more food we need by 2050.  
6       Who's going to produce? If you're taking  
7       thousands of acres out of production, you're not  
8       going to get the needed production for people not  
9       to starve. One world family. This land is worth  
10      more than \$700 an acre to produce food.

11              My notes aren't that good. There's  
12      all kinds of crops that farmers can produce and  
13      profit from. If they were willing to work at the  
14      land, they could make much more money off of each  
15      and every acre if they put the time in. They're  
16      too lazy. They want to spray their chemicals,  
17      spend two days a year out there, one to plant,  
18      one to spread and one to harvest, and you don't  
19      see them the rest of the year.

20              If they put the time in, they could  
21      make much more profit off of each and every acre  
22      if they produced the right crops and farm  
23      organically instead of with chemicals.

24              The whole thing behind this is the 26  
25      percent tax credit. Our government has brought

1 this to our door.

2 I am not in favor of this at all. I  
3 think each individual should have the right to do  
4 whatever they want with their property. So if I  
5 want to put a landfill in your backyard, you  
6 shouldn't come and yell at me because this is all  
7 part of our rights, right?

8 And again, 99 percent -- 99 percent  
9 of the landowners don't live there. There's one  
10 family out of the bunch of them that have  
11 invested that actually live there on my road.

12 And how much money does 1,100 acres  
13 of crops actually bring in? They're saying a  
14 million five a year. 1,100 acres of corn or  
15 soybeans aren't worth a million five? There's no  
16 economic benefit.

17 I said my piece.

18 MR. MCDONNELL: No questions.

19 JUDGE HICKS: Thank you. I believe  
20 that is everyone that signed up. So if I missed  
21 someone, raise your hands now, but I've got them  
22 all X'd out here. I believe that is it.

23 Seeing no one motioning otherwise,  
24 again, I want to thank everyone for their  
25 participation.

1 I want to thank the facility here for  
2 housing us, allowing us to have the public  
3 hearing here in person.

4 The hearing is now concluded. The  
5 transcript will be submitted on the record for  
6 the Board's consideration in this case so thanks  
7 again.

8 Have a nice evening and we are  
9 adjourned.

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1 STATE OF OHIO:

2 SS

CERTIFICATE

3 CHAMPAIGN COUNTY:

4  
5 I, Marcy L. Bills, Court Reporter and  
6 Notary Public for the State of Ohio, do hereby  
7 certify that the foregoing transcript was taken  
8 by in Stenography and reduced to typewriting, and  
9 is a true, accurate and complete transcript as  
10 transcribed by me of the proceedings conducted in  
11 the public hearing held on the 19th day of  
12 August, 2021.

13 I do further certify that I was  
14 personally present in the hearing room during all  
15 of the said proceedings.

16 Subscribed this 22nd day of August,  
17 2021.

18  
19 

20 S/SMarcyLBills

21 Marcy L. Bills, Court Reporter  
22 Notary Public, State of Ohio  
23 My Commission Expire 2-1-2026  
24  
25