

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

In the Matter of the Application of)
Kingwood Solar, LLC for a Certificate)
of Environmental Compatibility and)
Public Need)

Case No. 21-0117-EL-BGN

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF BRANDON HUDDLESON ON BEHALF OF INTERVENING PARTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GREENE COUNTY, OHIO

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2 **Q.1. Please state your name and business address.**

3 A.1. Brandon Huddleson. 35 Greene Street Xenia, Ohio 45385.

4 **Q.2. What is your occupation?**

5 A.2. I am the Greene County Administrator.

6 **Q.3. Please describe the duties and role of the county administrator position.**

7 A.3. I am the Chief Executive Officer. I manage the County budgets and am responsible for the
8 day-to-day operations of our various departments.

9 **Q.4. Please describe your educational background.**

10 A.4. I hold a B.S. in Business Management from Indiana Wesleyan University.

11 **Q.5. Please describe your work experience, prior to your current position, in the field of**
12 **public administration.**

13 A.5. Prior to becoming County Administrator in 2014, I was the Director of Greene County
14 Services from 2010. I was the Sanitary Engineering Department, Central Maintenance
15 Supervisor from 2000 to 2010.

16 **Q.6. How long have you been employed by Greene County?**

17 A.6. 22 years.

18 **Q.7. Did you hold any positions with Greene County prior to becoming county**
19 **administrator? Please describe.**

20 A.7. Yes, County Services Director 2010-2014. I was responsible for all County buildings and
21 the vehicle fleet. As Central Maintenance Supervisor at Sanitary Engineering, I was
22 responsible for the equipment maintenance and repair at our water and wastewater facilities
23 throughout the county.

24 **Q.8. Do you live in Greene County? How long?**

25 A.8. Yes. Other than one year in Alabama as a teenager, I have lived in Greene County all my
26 life.

27 **Q.9. Are you familiar with the proposal to build a solar-powered electric generation**
28 **facility in Greene County, known as Kingwood Solar?**

29 A.9. Yes.

30 **Q.10. How did you first become aware of the proposal?**

31 A.10. I was contacted by Mr. Kevin Dewine regarding the Kingwood Solar project in November
32 of 2020. Greene County Development Director, Eric Henry and I met with Mr. Dewine
33 and Mr. John Soininen of Lendlease them via Zoom on 11/16/2020 so they could explain
34 the project to us.

35 **Q.11. Have you played a role in the County's consideration of the proposal? If so, please**
36 **describe.**

37 A.11. Yes, I have been the main point of contact for the Board of County Commissioners
38 throughout the project. I have monitored the docket submissions, responded to emails from
39 the public, liaised with the Townships, and worked with Regional Planning staff to draft
40 language for the County's Land Use Plan to address alternative energy sites.

41 **Q.12. Please describe the County's objectives in evaluating the proposal.**

42 A.12. Our objective is to properly site alternative energy developments within the county.

Q.13. Did the County's evaluation include public meetings or town halls?

A.13. Yes. Several people have provided input at various public meetings of the Board since 2020 as well as at the public meetings hosted by the developer. Commissioners held a Town Hall Meeting on April 6, 2021 to solicit input from the public.

Q.14. Please describe the public input you observed.

A.14. There was input from proponents and opponents of the project. However, there were far more negative comments than positive ones. The overwhelming sentiment was that the project did not fit this area for many reasons that were expressed.

Q.15. Were you involved in the commissioners' consideration of Resolution 21-10-28-8 on October 28, 2021? Please describe.

A.15. Yes. The resolution was considered at a public meeting on October 28, 2021. As I recall, a few people spoke in opposition of the resolution prior to the Commissioners explaining each of their positions and passing the resolution unanimously.

Q.16. Is the document attached to this testimony and labeled Exhibit A a true and correct copy of that resolution?

A.16. Yes.

Q.17. The resolution mentions another resolution, Resolution 21-8-26-10, adopted on August 26, 2021. Were you involved in the commissioners' consideration of that resolution? Please describe.

A.17. Yes. The Commissioners approved an amendment to the Perspectives 2020 Land Use Plan to address alternative energy installations in the county. Prior to learning of the possibility of a solar project coming to the county, it had not been a consideration.

65 **Q.18. Is the document attached to this testimony and labeled Exhibit B a true and correct**
66 **copy of that resolution?**

67 A.18. Yes.

68 **Q.19. Are you familiar with the Perspectives 2020: Amendment 2021-01 attached to the**
69 **August 26, 2021 resolution?**

70 A.19. Yes.

71 **Q.20. What is Perspectives 2020?**

72 A.20. It is a comprehensive land use plan for the county.

73 **Q.21. How does the County use Perspectives 2020?**

74 A.21. It is the guiding document used by Regional Planning, Township officials, and County
75 Commissioners when considering any new development or land use application.

76 **Q.22. The August 26, 2021 resolution adopting the amendment to Perspectives 2020 speaks**
77 **about the goal of “balanc[ing] development and farmland preservation.” Could you**
78 **please describe the role of agricultural land in Greene County?**

79 A.22. We have a strong agricultural economy on the eastern half of our county. There are many
80 agricultural conservation easements already in place and more are applied for each year.
81 We have multi-generational farms with thousands of acres of crops and livestock. It
82 provides places for people to live who wish to be outside the limits of our metropolitan
83 areas.

84 **Q.23. The Amendment to Perspectives 2020 references the restriction that utility-scale**
85 **renewable energy systems shall not be located within the viewshed of cultural,**
86 **historic, scenic byways, historic corridors, bike trails, or recreational resources of**

87 **Greene County. Could you please describe the role of these resources in Greene**
88 **County?**

89 A.23. The resources you mentioned are economic drivers and local treasures. People travel from
90 all over the country to ride our trails and to visit our natural amenities. We have a strong
91 travel industry linked to these and other resources. The Little Miami is a National Scenic
92 River.

93 **Q.24. The October 28, 2021 resolution states that the project's location in the five-mile**
94 **viewshed for Clifton Gorge Dedicated Nature Preserve, Clifton Mill, Clifton River**
95 **Road Reserve, John Bryan State Park, numerous trails, and various historic, natural**
96 **and recreational resources could be a potential economic detriment to tourism. Please**
97 **describe the role of tourism in Greene County.**

98 A.24. Same answer. These resources are destinations for tourism.

99 **Q.25. Were you influenced by any individual, including the Power Siting Board staff, to**
100 **recommend the commissioners' adoption of the October 28, 2021 resolution stating**
101 **opposition to the project?**

102 A.25. No.

103 **Q.26. Does this conclude your testimony?**

104 A.26. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was served upon the following via email on this 28th day of February 2022.

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Summary: Testimony Direct Testimony of Brandon Huddleson, County
Administrator for Greene County, OH electronically filed by Mr. Thaddeus M. Boggs
on behalf of Greene County Board of Commissioners