

1                                   **LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING**

2    IN THE MATTER OF:        )   Case No.  
                                   )   21-823-EL-BGN  
 3                                   )  
       WILD GRAINS SOLAR,       )  
 4    LLC FOR A                   )  
       CERTIFICATE OF           )  
 5    ENVIRONMENTAL             )  
       COMPATIBILITY AND        )  
 6    PUBLIC NEED                )

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**BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**  
                                   **JACKY ST. JOHN**

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11                   DATE:       Tuesday, May 3, 2022

12                   TIME:       6:00 p.m.

13                   PLACE:     Van Wert County Fairgrounds  
                                   1055 South Washington Street  
 14                                   Van Wert, Ohio 45891

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23    **MIDWEST**                           Angela A. O'Neill, RMR  
       **REPORTING**                       6729 Ross Road  
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25    **Registered Professional Reporters**

<p>1 APPEARANCES: 2</p> <p>3 ON BEHALF OF WILD GRAINS SOLAR, LLC:</p> <p>4 MS. KARA H. HERRNSTEIN, ESQ.</p> <p>5 Bricker &amp; Eckler</p> <p>6 100 South Third Street</p> <p>7 Columbus, Ohio 43215</p> <p>8 (614) 227-2300</p> <p>9 kherrnstein@bricker.com</p> <p>10</p> <p>11 Jeff Reinkemeyer, Avangrid Renewables</p> <p>12</p> <p>13 Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau</p> <p>14</p> <p>15 Todd Wolfrum, Commissioner</p> <p>16</p> <p>17 Alfred Osting, Trustee</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Good evening,</p> <p>2 everyone. Good evening, everyone. Can</p> <p>3 everyone hear me?</p> <p>4 FEMALE VOICE: That's better.</p> <p>5 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Good evening,</p> <p>6 everybody. My clock is reading 6 o'clock, so</p> <p>7 let's go ahead and get tonight's hearing</p> <p>8 started.</p> <p>9 The Ohio Power Siting Board has</p> <p>10 scheduled for public hearing at this time and</p> <p>11 place Case Number 21-823-EL-BGN, which is</p> <p>12 captioned In The Matter of the Application of</p> <p>13 Wild Grains Solar, LLC versus for Certificate</p> <p>14 of Environmental Compatibility and Public</p> <p>15 Need.</p> <p>16 My name is Jacky St. John, and I am</p> <p>17 the Administrative Law Judge in the Board's</p> <p>18 Legal Department assigned to hear this case.</p> <p>19 The passage of Senate Bill 52</p> <p>20 provides new opportunities for county</p> <p>21 commissioners and township trustees to</p> <p>22 participate, excuse me, to participate in the</p> <p>23 siting of solar projects in their community.</p> <p>24 County commissioners may choose one</p> <p>25 commissioner, or a designee, to serve as an ad</p>
<p>3</p> <p>1 I N D E X</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 PAGE</p> <p>4 Kip Siesel..... 11</p> <p>5 Ellen Girod Dove ..... 14</p> <p>6 Murlen Feasby ..... 19</p> <p>7 Bob Barker ..... 24</p> <p>8 Keaton Brenneman ..... 26</p> <p>9 Barry Thatcher ..... 32</p> <p>10 Jeff Snyder ..... 34</p> <p>11 Kari Casto ..... 37</p> <p>12 Bradley Maunz ..... 40</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1 hoc board member. In addition, township</p> <p>2 trustees may choose one trustee, or a</p> <p>3 designee, to serve as their ad hoc board</p> <p>4 member representative.</p> <p>5 The Board of Van Wert County</p> <p>6 Commissioners appointed Commissioner Todd</p> <p>7 Wolfrum, and the Board of Trustees of Hoaglin</p> <p>8 Township appointed Trustee Alfred Osting as</p> <p>9 the ad hoc board members for this project.</p> <p>10 Trustee Osting and Commissioner Wolfrum join</p> <p>11 us this evening.</p> <p>12 Trustee Osting, would you like to</p> <p>13 stand, so folks know who you are?</p> <p>14 (Doing as indicated.)</p> <p>15 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Good evening.</p> <p>16 Thank you for being here.</p> <p>17 TRUSTEE OSTING: Yep.</p> <p>18 JUDGE ST. JOHN: And Commissioner</p> <p>19 Wolfrum?</p> <p>20 (Doing as indicated.)</p> <p>21 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Good evening.</p> <p>22 Thank you.</p> <p>23 There are also staff members from</p> <p>24 the Board assisting us with the hearing</p> <p>25 tonight, as well as individuals from the</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>1 Public Affairs Department. You likely passed  2 them on the way in this evening, but they are  3 the individuals wearing a PUCO or OPSB badge  4 or shirt. They're available if you have  5 questions concerning the Board's process, if  6 you need assistance in accessing any of the  7 documents submitted in this case, or if you  8 just have general questions about the hearing  9 tonight.</p> <p>10 And at this time, I would like to  11 take appearances on behalf of the parties.  12 First, Wild Grains Solar, LLC.</p> <p>13 MS. HERRNSTEIN: I'm  14 Kara Herrnstein of Bricker &amp; Eckler, 100 South  15 Third Street, Columbus, Ohio 43209. On  16 behalf of the Applicant, I also have with me,  17 Jeff.</p> <p>18 MR. REINKEMEYER: Jeff Reinkemeyer,  19 Lead Developer, 1237 Inverness Court,  20 Schererville, Indiana, and I'm the developer  21 with Avangrid Renewables.</p> <p>22 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay. Thank you  23 both. And are there any other parties present  24 this evening that would like to make an  25 appearance at this time?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>1 proposed project, but who are not parties to  2 this case.</p> <p>3 Tonight's public hearing will not  4 be a question and answer session, but rather  5 an opportunity for you to let the Board know  6 what you think about the proposed project.</p> <p>7 Tonight's public hearing is only  8 one aspect of the process in this case. An  9 evidentiary hearing is scheduled to commence  10 on May 25th, 2022, at the Board's offices in  11 Columbus. The purpose of the evidentiary  12 hearing is for the parties and Board staff to  13 provide testimony and other evidence regarding  14 the project.</p> <p>15 Tonight's hearing is being  16 transcribed by a court reporter. If you plan  17 to testify, please speak clearly, so that the  18 court reporter can accurately reflect your  19 comments on the record.</p> <p>20 Also, if you have prepared a  21 written statement, it would be helpful if you  22 provide a copy to the court reporter for  23 reference, to ensure that the transcript is  24 accurate.</p> <p>25 After I finish with this</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>1 MR. ARNOLD: Thank you, your Honor.  2 My name is Dale, D-A-L-E, Arnold, A-R-N-O-L-D.  3 I'm Director Energy, Utility and Local  4 Government Policy for the Ohio Farm Bureau.  5 We are part of your record in this case,  6 however, I'm not legal counsel. I'm here  7 tonight basically to observe and take notes  8 and report to our legal counsel tomorrow.  9 Thank you.</p> <p>10 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you.  11 The subject of today's hearing is  12 an application filed by Wild Grains Solar,  13 LLC, for the purpose of constructing a solar  14 powered electric generation facility of up to  15 150 megawatts in Van Wert County. The  16 application was filed on November 16, 2021.</p> <p>17 The Board staff filed a report of  18 investigation on April 18, 2022. This report  19 is a recommendation of the Board staff and  20 does not necessarily reflect what the Board's  21 final determination in this case will be.</p> <p>22 The purposes of this evening's  23 public hearing is to receive testimony  24 regarding the application from those in the  25 local community who are affected by the</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>1 introduction, we will begin by inviting  2 individuals on the sign-in sheet to speak  3 about the proposed project. Each person who  4 signed up to testify will be permitted to  5 speak once about the proposed project.</p> <p>6 Before you present your testimony,  7 we will ask that you take an oath or  8 affirmation that what you're about to say is  9 the truth. We will also ask you to state your  10 name and address for the record. You will  11 then provide your thoughts on the proposed  12 project.</p> <p>13 The parties to the case and I will  14 be permitted to ask you questions about your  15 statement. The testimony that you provide  16 tonight will be considered part of the  17 official record of this case, and it will be  18 reviewed by the Board before a final decision  19 is made on the application.</p> <p>20 A couple of other notes. If you  21 decide that you do not want to testify when we  22 read your name from the sign-in sheet, you can  23 pass to the next witness. If you decide that  24 you prefer to file written comments in the  25 case docket, the Board staff can answer your</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>1 questions about how to do that.</p> <p>2 Also, once you finish testifying,</p> <p>3 or if you are here just to observe, you may</p> <p>4 leave the hearing at any time you wish.</p> <p>5 The Board appreciates your</p> <p>6 participation in tonight's hearing, and we</p> <p>7 want everyone who has signed up to testify to</p> <p>8 have the opportunity to do so. For that</p> <p>9 reason, please keep your statement to a</p> <p>10 reasonable length of no more than five</p> <p>11 minutes. I will be holding up a sign when you</p> <p>12 have 30 seconds left to provide comments, and</p> <p>13 I will also let you know when your five</p> <p>14 minutes are up. Again, we set these time</p> <p>15 limits so that everyone who would like to</p> <p>16 testify has time to speak.</p> <p>17 If you have additional comments</p> <p>18 that you would like to make, but you run out</p> <p>19 of time, you may file written comments in this</p> <p>20 case.</p> <p>21 And with that, at this time, we</p> <p>22 will begin with the testimony.</p> <p>23 The first individual that I have on</p> <p>24 my list is Kip Siesel. At this time, if you'd</p> <p>25 like to make your way to the front of the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>1 The operating engineers are the</p> <p>2 individuals who operate heavy equipment, such</p> <p>3 as bulldozers, excavators, backhoes, forklifts</p> <p>4 and so on. The roads and bridges you drive on</p> <p>5 were most likely built by members of Local 18,</p> <p>6 along with our fellow Union tradesmen and</p> <p>7 women.</p> <p>8 Although we do not have an</p> <p>9 agreement signed with Avangrid Renewables to</p> <p>10 perform the work associated with the project,</p> <p>11 we believe our Local signatory contractors</p> <p>12 will secure this work, thus providing our</p> <p>13 membership with numerous employment</p> <p>14 opportunities. In turn, high-paying wages,</p> <p>15 healthcare benefits, and apprenticeship</p> <p>16 programs can continue to grow because of the</p> <p>17 solar industry.</p> <p>18 If approved, the Wild Grains Solar</p> <p>19 project will not only create jobs, but you can</p> <p>20 expect an economic impact, additional tax</p> <p>21 money, and clean energy for Ohio as a result</p> <p>22 from the project.</p> <p>23 We encourage the Ohio Power Siting</p> <p>24 Board to support the jobs of the men and women</p> <p>25 of Local 18 by approving the Wild Grains Solar</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>1 microphone and make your comments. And before</p> <p>2 you begin, please raise your right hand.</p> <p>3 KIPTON SIESEL,</p> <p>4 WHO, BEING FIRST DULY SWORN,</p> <p>5 TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>6 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Please</p> <p>7 state and spell your name for the record.</p> <p>8 MR. SIESEL: Kip Siesel, K-I-P,</p> <p>9 S-I-E-S-E-L.</p> <p>10 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Please provide</p> <p>11 your address, including the Township.</p> <p>12 MR. SIESEL: 2412 South Reynolds</p> <p>13 Road, Toledo, Ohio. I'm not sure what the</p> <p>14 Township is, so ....</p> <p>15 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay. And do you</p> <p>16 reside or work within the project area?</p> <p>17 MR. SIESEL: I do not reside</p> <p>18 within, but I do work in and around the</p> <p>19 project area.</p> <p>20 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>21 And please proceed with your testimony.</p> <p>22 MR. SIESEL: So on behalf of the</p> <p>23 Operating Engineers Local Union 18, I am here</p> <p>24 to support the approval of the Wild Grains</p> <p>25 Solar project.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>1 project. Thank you.</p> <p>2 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Are</p> <p>3 there any questions for this witness from</p> <p>4 counsel?</p> <p>5 MS. HERRNSTEIN: No questions.</p> <p>6 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay. And I don't</p> <p>7 have any questions either. Thank you for your</p> <p>8 testimony.</p> <p>9 The next person on my list is</p> <p>10 Daniel Nussbaum.</p> <p>11 MR. NUSSBAUM: I pass.</p> <p>12 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay. The next</p> <p>13 person on my list, there are two people listed</p> <p>14 on the same field, I have Ellen (Girod) Dove</p> <p>15 and Ruth Girod. Not sure if you'd like to</p> <p>16 testify together or separately.</p> <p>17 MS. DOVE: I'm speaking on behalf</p> <p>18 of my mom, if --</p> <p>19 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay.</p> <p>20 MS. GIROD: I didn't know I was</p> <p>21 going to be up here.</p> <p>22 JUDGE ST. JOHN: And please raise</p> <p>23 your right hand.</p> <p>24 ELLEN GIROD DOVE,</p> <p>25 WHO, BEING FIRST DULY SWORN,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>1 TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>2 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Please</p> <p>3 state and spell your name for the record.</p> <p>4 MS. DOVE: Ellen, E-L-L-E-N, Girod,</p> <p>5 G-I-R-O-D, Dove, D-O-V-E.</p> <p>6 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. And</p> <p>7 please provide your address, including the</p> <p>8 Township.</p> <p>9 MS. DOVE: Hers or mine? Because I</p> <p>10 live in Van Wert, 669 South Washington Street, Van</p> <p>11 Wert, Ohio. She is 6423 Hoaglin Center, Van Wert,</p> <p>12 which is Hoaglin Township.</p> <p>13 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay. And do you</p> <p>14 reside or work within the project area?</p> <p>15 MS. DOVE: She does.</p> <p>16 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>17 And please proceed with your testimony.</p> <p>18 MS. DOVE: Good evening. I'm speaking</p> <p>19 on behalf of my mom, even though she is present at</p> <p>20 this meeting. My 91-year-old mother and I want to</p> <p>21 go on record regarding the Wild Grains solar panel</p> <p>22 issue. It is our understanding that there are</p> <p>23 certain individuals who believe they have the</p> <p>24 right to dictate how our family farm is utilized.</p> <p>25 My dad, a lifelong farmer, who passed</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>1 and deliberately the opportunity to be</p> <p>2 involved in the Wild Grains solar panel</p> <p>3 project. And my mom, the landowner,</p> <p>4 determined this was an excellent use of her</p> <p>5 land for a number of reasons. But let's</p> <p>6 assume she hadn't gone that direction. Could</p> <p>7 she have sold plots of land on which to build</p> <p>8 homes? Might she have turned all of the</p> <p>9 ground into a golf course, or a Christmas tree</p> <p>10 farm? Or even a cattle farm? It is beyond</p> <p>11 comprehension to us that there are residents</p> <p>12 in this county, who, for whatever selfish</p> <p>13 reasons they have, believe they can tell a</p> <p>14 landowner what they can or cannot do with</p> <p>15 their own land, with the understanding, of</p> <p>16 course, that it doesn't include illegal</p> <p>17 activity.</p> <p>18 What has happened to landowner</p> <p>19 rights? It is her ground, and she should be</p> <p>20 able to legally do whatever she chooses with</p> <p>21 her land.</p> <p>22 I respectfully ask that you</p> <p>23 consider the ramifications of allowing those</p> <p>24 who don't own the land to dictate to those who</p> <p>25 do what can be grown or used on said land.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>1 away four years ago, worked hard alongside my mom</p> <p>2 to develop and care for their property. The</p> <p>3 family farm, bought and paid for by my parents</p> <p>4 through sacrifice and an unparalleled work ethic,</p> <p>5 is now my mom's. And it amazes us that despite</p> <p>6 the fact that she is the landowner, other</p> <p>7 residents of the county believe they have a right</p> <p>8 to tell her what she can do with her property. Is</p> <p>9 she planning to engage in illegal activity? Of</p> <p>10 course not.</p> <p>11 To add a few details, we lived next to</p> <p>12 a hog farm for years. We often couldn't enjoy</p> <p>13 being outside, due to the disgusting stench, but</p> <p>14 not once did we ever think that our neighbor with</p> <p>15 hogs didn't have the right to earn a living on his</p> <p>16 property, in whatever legal way he determined to</p> <p>17 be appropriate.</p> <p>18 Additionally, as people who enjoy</p> <p>19 the beauty of the countryside's horizon, the</p> <p>20 wind turbines completely changed our view.</p> <p>21 However, not once did we think that the</p> <p>22 landowners didn't have the right to earn a</p> <p>23 living on their property, in whatever legal</p> <p>24 way they chose.</p> <p>25 We have considered very carefully</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>1 Where does it end?</p> <p>2 Also, since we first began</p> <p>3 communicating with Avangrid reps, we have</p> <p>4 appreciated the way they have addressed or</p> <p>5 responded to landowner and homeowner concerns,</p> <p>6 including farming the setbacks in such a way</p> <p>7 that it would help preserve the farm landscape</p> <p>8 view.</p> <p>9 We are with other landowners in</p> <p>10 recommending that all setbacks be farmed by</p> <p>11 the landowner, or the tenant, just as it has</p> <p>12 been in the past.</p> <p>13 One of the attractive aspects of</p> <p>14 this solar panel project is that it can be a</p> <p>15 win-win for our community. There are a number</p> <p>16 of entities who will benefit from this</p> <p>17 project, not just the landowners.</p> <p>18 It is our understanding that</p> <p>19 Hoaglin Township, Van Wert County, which is,</p> <p>20 and my mom's previous employer, Lincolnview</p> <p>21 Local School, my alma mater, will all be on</p> <p>22 the list of those who will enjoy the outcomes</p> <p>23 from the solar panel project.</p> <p>24 In addition to that, we understand</p> <p>25 there is also an agreement between the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>1 commissioners, Lincolnview Local Schools,  2 Hoaglin Township and Avangrid, which will  3 provide compensation to homeowners in Hoaglin  4 Township. This is clearly a desire to ensure  5 that all stakeholders have something to gain  6 from the project.</p> <p>7 The entire package is one that we  8 support with, of course, the primary factor  9 being that as the landowner, who has been the  10 one paying the real estate taxes on the Girod  11 farm for 50 years, my mom should have the  12 right to use her land in whatever legal way  13 she sees fit in order to earn a living. The  14 last we knew, there was nothing illegal about  15 solar panels.</p> <p>16 The thoughts I have expressed are  17 those of my mom, who is still of sound mind,  18 but for transparency purposes, I also have  19 power of attorney, and will always speak for  20 my mom's best interest. Thank you.</p> <p>21 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you.  22 Counsel, do you have any questions for this  23 witness?</p> <p>24 MS. HERRNSTEIN: No questions.</p> <p>25 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay. Thank you.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>1 MR. FEASBY: I own some property  2 there.</p> <p>3 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay.</p> <p>4 MR. FEASBY: And the other name on  5 your note there is my mother-in-law, who owns  6 property there also, and she can't be here  7 tonight, so this is my -- my speaking, but she  8 agrees with me.</p> <p>9 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Please  10 proceed with your testimony.</p> <p>11 MR. FEASBY: Okay. I sent a letter to  12 the Siting Board on March 9th expressing my  13 frustration that landowners were being denied the  14 right to use their land as they desire. To recap  15 that letter, and a few new thoughts I had, I just  16 find it unbelievable that I, or any landowner, is  17 being dictated to as to how we use our land, when  18 there is no harm being done to the community.  19 Whether I plant soybeans, corn, sunflowers, or  20 solar panels, seems to be at my discretion, not  21 someone else's. I don't expect to be able to tell  22 my neighbor how to plant their garden, take care  23 of their lawn, or what they should or shouldn't do  24 with their property, their house, or their barn.  25 When I moved here from Fort Wayne</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>1 Next on the list, again, we have two  2 individuals signed up together, Ed Feasby and  3 Wilota Collins.</p> <p>4 MR. FEASBY: She -- she's not here.  5 She's the primary landowner that I rent the  6 land from.</p> <p>7 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay. Would you  8 mind stating that on the record as well?</p> <p>9 MR. FEASBY: Yes.</p> <p>10 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Please  11 raise your right hand.</p> <p>12 MURLEN FEASBY,  13 WHO, BEING FIRST DULY SWORN,  14 TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>15 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Please  16 state and spell your name on the record.</p> <p>17 MR. FEASBY: My name is Murlen Feasby,  18 better known as Ed, but M-U-R-L-E-N, F-E-A-S-B-Y.</p> <p>19 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. And  20 please provide your address, including the  21 township.</p> <p>22 MR. FEASBY: 4508 Payne Road, Convoy,  23 Ohio, and that's Tully Township.</p> <p>24 JUDGE ST. JOHN: And do you reside or  25 work within the project area?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>1 30 years ago, I chose a nice, quiet, isolated  2 area. Since then, I have had a commercial  3 dairy barn started five miles west of me, two  4 hog farms within two miles of me, there is  5 hundreds of windmills to my north and east out  6 my kitchen window, and the huge Robert Mone  7 Electrical Generating Plant is less than a  8 mile from my house. That's all been built  9 since I moved there. Now, that's called  10 progress and growth. I don't especially  11 appreciate any of those changes. As a matter  12 of fact, the smell is unbearable sometimes.  13 But I certainly acknowledge the right of the  14 landowners to do what is best for them and  15 their families. I only ask for the same  16 consideration. These solar panels don't  17 smell, make noise, or bother anyone's way of  18 life, or the comfort of their homes.</p> <p>19 You know, I travel a lot in my job,  20 and I see solar panels popping up all over  21 Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana. I  22 don't understand why Ohio is not welcoming  23 these projects, instead of allowing  24 unreasonable complaints to stall them.  25 It appears to me that Avangrid has</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>1 gone above and beyond to try to appease those</p> <p>2 with concerns. They have removed large tracts</p> <p>3 of land from the project, at a great loss to</p> <p>4 the landowners, and held meetings to address</p> <p>5 concerns.</p> <p>6 I know there are some in the area</p> <p>7 that have voiced their opposition, and even</p> <p>8 after their issues were addressed, they</p> <p>9 continue to oppose the project and encourage</p> <p>10 others to do likewise. You know, progress for</p> <p>11 the many is rarely made without angering some.</p> <p>12 I understand that a concerned raise</p> <p>13 by many of the homeowners is they like to</p> <p>14 preserve the look of the farm landscape. And</p> <p>15 so I firmly support allowing setbacks to be</p> <p>16 farmed as possible, so that it continue to</p> <p>17 look like corn and soybeans out in the</p> <p>18 country.</p> <p>19 I also know that Avangrid has</p> <p>20 worked hard to earn cooperation for everybody</p> <p>21 involved. They reached an agreement early on</p> <p>22 with Van Wert County, Hoaglin Township, and</p> <p>23 Lincolnview officials that was beneficial to</p> <p>24 all residents, and entered into an agreement</p> <p>25 to compensate homeowners near the project</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>1 else.</p> <p>2 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Please state and</p> <p>3 spell your name for the record.</p> <p>4 MR. BARKER: Bob Barker, B-O-B,</p> <p>5 B-A-R-K-E-R.</p> <p>6 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. And</p> <p>7 please provide your address.</p> <p>8 MR. BARKER: 5308 John Yoh Road, Van</p> <p>9 Wert, Ohio.</p> <p>10 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Do you</p> <p>11 reside or work within the project area?</p> <p>12 MR. BARKER: Right in the middle of</p> <p>13 it.</p> <p>14 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Reside or work?</p> <p>15 MR. BARKER: I live there.</p> <p>16 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Please</p> <p>17 proceed with your testimony.</p> <p>18 MR. BARKER: Well, I've heard a lot</p> <p>19 about compensation for the homeowners out there,</p> <p>20 but I have not heard anything from your lawyers,</p> <p>21 or anything else, and how this is not going to</p> <p>22 increase the value of my home, having all these</p> <p>23 stuck around it. Can you tell me, if somebody</p> <p>24 goes to a Realtor, they're not going to ask, take</p> <p>25 me out there, so I can see all of these and see</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>1 site. I cannot understand any reason for this</p> <p>2 project not to go forward, after seeing the</p> <p>3 generous benefits for all involved.</p> <p>4 I might add in closing that if</p> <p>5 farmers had not allowed their farms to be used</p> <p>6 for other than farming, there would be no</p> <p>7 homeowners in the area to object to this</p> <p>8 project anyway.</p> <p>9 Thank you for your time, and I ask</p> <p>10 that you approve the project.</p> <p>11 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Are</p> <p>12 there any questions for this witness?</p> <p>13 MS. HERRNSTEIN: No questions.</p> <p>14 JUDGE ST. JOHN: All right. Thank</p> <p>15 you for your testimony. Next on my list, I</p> <p>16 have Bob Barker.</p> <p>17 MR. BARKER: Come on down.</p> <p>18 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Good evening.</p> <p>19 Please raise your right hand.</p> <p>20 BOB BARKER,</p> <p>21 WHO, BEING FIRST DULY SWORN,</p> <p>22 TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>23 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Please</p> <p>24 state --</p> <p>25 MR. BARKER: Wouldn't say anything</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>1 this home out here? They're not going to do that.</p> <p>2 That's going to devalue my property with the</p> <p>3 farmers making money on their property, but I'm</p> <p>4 going to be losing money. You know, I'd like to</p> <p>5 have an answer for that. I mean, you've done all</p> <p>6 kind of surveys, I know you have, and whether it's</p> <p>7 good or bad for the homeowners in the area that</p> <p>8 these farms are being put in.</p> <p>9 And you got prime farmland out here</p> <p>10 that you're putting these in, that they can't no</p> <p>11 longer farm. And there is places all over the</p> <p>12 country that, the desert would appreciate some of</p> <p>13 these panels out there, the sun shines most of the</p> <p>14 time. Here in Ohio, especially in Van Wert, I</p> <p>15 don't see the sun a whole lot during the</p> <p>16 wintertime. I know the rest of you don't either.</p> <p>17 So really that's all I've got to say.</p> <p>18 I'm just curious about the depreciation of my</p> <p>19 property.</p> <p>20 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Sir, tonight is</p> <p>21 not a question and answer session, so I'm not</p> <p>22 able to answer questions that you may have. I</p> <p>23 will let you know that counsel for the</p> <p>24 Applicant is here, as well as members, or</p> <p>25 representatives from the Power Siting Board,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>1 so if you'd like to ask any of those</p> <p>2 individuals questions after the hearing,</p> <p>3 you're certainly more than welcome to.</p> <p>4 MR. BARKER: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>5 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. And</p> <p>6 are there any questions for this witness?</p> <p>7 MS. HERRNSTEIN: No questions.</p> <p>8 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you.</p> <p>9 Next on my list I have Keaton</p> <p>10 Brenneman. Please raise your right hand.</p> <p>11 KEATON BRENNEMAN,</p> <p>12 WHO, BEING FIRST DULY SWORN,</p> <p>13 TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>14 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Please</p> <p>15 state and spell your name for the record.</p> <p>16 MR. BRENNEMAN: My name is Keaton</p> <p>17 Brenneman, K-E-A-T-O-N, Brenneman,</p> <p>18 B-R-E-N-N-E-M-A-N.</p> <p>19 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. And</p> <p>20 please provide your address.</p> <p>21 MR. BRENNEMAN: 15314 U.S. Route 224,</p> <p>22 Van Wert, Hoaglin Township.</p> <p>23 JUDGE ST. JOHN: And do you reside or</p> <p>24 work within the project area?</p> <p>25 MR. BRENNEMAN: Yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>1 does not come out. These projects are</p> <p>2 expected to last 50 years. Any issue that</p> <p>3 will affect our grandchildren shouldn't be</p> <p>4 rushed through, and the Board should consider</p> <p>5 this.</p> <p>6 Another area of concern I have is</p> <p>7 the mission creep of future panel development.</p> <p>8 Once this solar farm is established, it will</p> <p>9 become easier and easier for farmers in the</p> <p>10 panel development area to sign lease</p> <p>11 agreements, because the damage to property and</p> <p>12 home values has already been done. No one</p> <p>13 will want to build a home anywhere near the</p> <p>14 panel development area, and people may avoid</p> <p>15 Hoaglin Township altogether, if they fear the</p> <p>16 growth of the solar farm's footprint. Also,</p> <p>17 future trustees may decide to expand the</p> <p>18 already-sprawling solar panel development</p> <p>19 zone.</p> <p>20 This brings me to my third area of</p> <p>21 concern, a gerrymandered development area. If</p> <p>22 we look at a map of the proposed panel</p> <p>23 locations, this is not an area contained to</p> <p>24 the immediate area surrounding the Maddox</p> <p>25 Creek substation on Fife Road. The distance</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>1 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Reside or work?</p> <p>2 MR. BRENNEMAN: Reside and work.</p> <p>3 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. And</p> <p>4 please proceed with your testimony.</p> <p>5 MR. BRENNEMAN: Good evening. My name</p> <p>6 is Keaton Brenneman. I'm a homeowner and farmer</p> <p>7 in Hoaglin Township, and I hope my time tonight</p> <p>8 can bring some different perspectives to the</p> <p>9 Board. My family has over 650 acres in the Wild</p> <p>10 Grains solar development area, much of which will</p> <p>11 be put to panels.</p> <p>12 As the heir of this future farmland, I</p> <p>13 stand to benefit from the payments this land</p> <p>14 generates. That being said, I passionately oppose</p> <p>15 the solar farms for many reasons. These include</p> <p>16 the utter permanence of the project, the mission</p> <p>17 creep of future panel development, the lack of a</p> <p>18 referendum/vote on an issue that so deeply affects</p> <p>19 this community, a gerrymandered development map</p> <p>20 that makes this project sprawl, and the</p> <p>21 devastating effect on property values in the</p> <p>22 Hoaglin Township area.</p> <p>23 The first issue I see is the utter</p> <p>24 longevity of this project. Once a field is</p> <p>25 put to panels, for all practical purposes, it</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>1 from the northwest corner of the development</p> <p>2 area to the southeast corner is 4.79 miles,</p> <p>3 from corner to corner, as measured by Google</p> <p>4 Earth satellite imagery. This is an absolute</p> <p>5 sprawling footprint. This represents a lack</p> <p>6 of care for containing the project so as to</p> <p>7 limit the damage to local property values.</p> <p>8 The Commissioners of Allen County</p> <p>9 recently approved a map of solar development</p> <p>10 in Allen County, and it makes much more sense.</p> <p>11 They contained any future panel development to</p> <p>12 an area south of Lima that, as far as I know,</p> <p>13 was already zoned for industrial use. They</p> <p>14 then banned panel development in the rest of</p> <p>15 the county to limit the sprawl of future</p> <p>16 development of panels, so the local property</p> <p>17 owners could feel assured that no solar farms</p> <p>18 will sweep in and lower property values.</p> <p>19 This leads me to my next point</p> <p>20 concerning property values in the Hoaglin</p> <p>21 Township area. As anyone can imagine, taking</p> <p>22 a home in the beautiful countryside, and</p> <p>23 placing it in the middle of an industrial</p> <p>24 complex, isn't desirable. I can't imagine</p> <p>25 many homeowners that are thrilled at the</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>1 prospect of their home being surrounded by  2 solar panels. The buffer zone that calls for  3 trees to be grown around the panels lays bare  4 the fact that these farms are awful to look  5 at. When looking at the petition signed by  6 the residents of Hoaglin Township to the Ohio  7 Power Siting Board, it appears that one of the  8 residents' largest concerns is the affects  9 these farms will have on property values.  10 Many residents describe these panels as an  11 eyesore.</p> <p>12 I have a research paper from  13 Dr. Varun Rai of the University of Texas at  14 Austin that indicates survey participants  15 would value homes within 100 feet of a solar  16 development \$26,000 less. This needs to be  17 taken into careful consideration.</p> <p>18 There are various other issues,  19 that for the sake of time, I will mention  20 briefly. Is it wise to take highly-productive  21 farm ground out of use, on a massive scale,  22 during a time of food insecurity around the  23 world? Should the citizens of Hoaglin  24 Township have the opportunity to vote on a  25 referendum approving the panels, especially on</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">32</p> <p>1 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thanks. Does  2 counsel have any other questions for this  3 witness?</p> <p>4 MS. HERRNSTEIN: No.</p> <p>5 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. And  6 the next witness I have for this evening is  7 Barry Thatcher. Please raise your right hand.</p> <p>8 BARRY THATCHER,  9 WHO, BEING FIRST DULY SWORN,  10 TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>11 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Please  12 state or -- state and spell your name for the  13 record.</p> <p>14 MR. THATCHER: My name is Barry  15 Thatcher, B-A-R-R-Y, Thatcher, T-H-A-T-C-H-E-R.</p> <p>16 JUDGE ST. JOHN: And please provide  17 your address.</p> <p>18 MR. THATCHER: I live at 1051 Madison  19 Boulevard here in Van Wert.</p> <p>20 JUDGE ST. JOHN: And do you live or  21 work within the project area?</p> <p>22 MR. THATCHER: I own property --</p> <p>23 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay.</p> <p>24 MR. THATCHER: -- within the project  25 area.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>1 an issue that affects us so directly?</p> <p>2 Also, I would like to ask the Board  3 how they would appreciate living in the middle  4 of this development zone, if it were your  5 property.</p> <p>6 When I asked a farmer who is  7 leasing land to the Wild Grains solar  8 development how he would like to live around  9 these solar fields, if he were in my position,  10 he stated that he wouldn't rent his ground  11 around his home, because he wouldn't like how  12 they look. He lives in Allen County, though,  13 so he doesn't have to worry about looking at  14 them every day, but we will in Hoaglin  15 Township. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>16 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. I have  17 one quick question for you. You reference a  18 study or an article. Is that something that  19 you have with you --</p> <p>20 MR. BRENNEMAN: I do.</p> <p>21 JUDGE ST. JOHN: -- that you'd like  22 to submit as an exhibit to your testimony?</p> <p>23 MR. BRENNEMAN: Yes. Yeah.</p> <p>24 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>25 MR. BRENNEMAN: I'll get it.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">33</p> <p>1 JUDGE ST. JOHN: All right. Thank  2 you, and please proceed with your testimony.</p> <p>3 MR. THATCHER: One of my concerns is  4 the energy. And I think that we overlooked the  5 security aspects of having good energy for our  6 country. I think all forms of energy are  7 beneficial to the security of our country; wind,  8 solar, fossil fuels, even nuclear energy, because  9 once we give up the energy rights, why, we're in a  10 not very good, secure situation.</p> <p>11 I represent my folks that own the  12 property, and it's in a trust, and I'm the  13 Trustee, with the fiduciary responsibility of  14 looking after it for future generations. So with  15 that, now, I have dealt with the same people for  16 the wind turbines, which they have done everything  17 they're going to do, and they have said everything  18 they're going to say, and everything has worked  19 out great. And I think they have addressed all  20 the issues concerning any of the neighbors.</p> <p>21 And the biggest thing is I just don't  22 think that anybody should be able to tell me what  23 to do with our land, as long as it's legal and not  24 harming anybody else. That does it.</p> <p>25 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Are there</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">34</p> <p>1 any questions for this witness --</p> <p>2 MS. HERRNSTEIN: No questions.</p> <p>3 JUDGE ST. JOHN: -- from counsel? All</p> <p>4 right. Thank you for your testimony.</p> <p>5 MR. THATCHER: Thank you.</p> <p>6 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Next I have Jeff</p> <p>7 Snyder. Please raise your right hand.</p> <p>8 JEFF SNYDER,</p> <p>9 WHO, BEING FIRST DULY SWORN,</p> <p>10 TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>11 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Please</p> <p>12 state and -- please state and spell your name for</p> <p>13 the record.</p> <p>14 MR. SNYDER: My name is Jeff Snyder,</p> <p>15 J-E-F-F, Snyder, S-N-Y-D-E-R.</p> <p>16 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. And</p> <p>17 please provide your address?</p> <p>18 MR. SNYDER: I'm representing the</p> <p>19 School District. Do you want the School District</p> <p>20 or my address?</p> <p>21 JUDGE ST. JOHN: School address,</p> <p>22 school address would be fine.</p> <p>23 MR. SNYDER: 15945 Middle Point Road,</p> <p>24 Van Wert, Ohio 45891.</p> <p>25 JUDGE ST. JOHN: And what school</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">36</p> <p>1 they have given regarding this proposed project,</p> <p>2 and the potential opportunity this could be</p> <p>3 financially to Lincolnview Local Schools, without</p> <p>4 imposing our constituents with an additional tax</p> <p>5 burden.</p> <p>6 As we have done in the past, we will</p> <p>7 continue to be good stewards of our financial</p> <p>8 dollars, maintain and enhance our buildings and</p> <p>9 ground, and also evolve our educational offerings</p> <p>10 and needs of our students through new programming</p> <p>11 and technology.</p> <p>12 From a Van Wert County perspective, we</p> <p>13 want to add to the growth and value of people</p> <p>14 wanting to live here and prosper here.</p> <p>15 In closing, thank you for allowing us</p> <p>16 to present at today's hearing. Jeff Snyder.</p> <p>17 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Are there</p> <p>18 any questions for this witness?</p> <p>19 MS. HERRNSTEIN: No questions.</p> <p>20 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you for your</p> <p>21 testimony. Next on my list, I have Kari Casto.</p> <p>22 Please raise your right hand.</p> <p>23 KARI CASTO,</p> <p>24 WHO, BEING FIRST DULY SWORN,</p> <p>25 TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">35</p> <p>1 district are you in?</p> <p>2 MR. SNYDER: Lincolnview Local.</p> <p>3 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. And is</p> <p>4 the School District within the project area?</p> <p>5 MR. SNYDER: The district and the</p> <p>6 school encompasses a whole number of townships,</p> <p>7 and this is one of them, Hoaglin Township.</p> <p>8 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>9 Please proceed with your testimony.</p> <p>10 MR. SNYDER: Thank you. The</p> <p>11 Lincolnview Local Schools Board of Education and</p> <p>12 Administration would like to thank the Ohio Power</p> <p>13 Siting Board for the invitation of today's local</p> <p>14 hearing regarding the Wild Grains solar proposal.</p> <p>15 Throughout this process, the</p> <p>16 Lincolnview Local Schools would like to commend</p> <p>17 the collaboration of this proposed project between</p> <p>18 the Hoaglin Township Trustees, the Van Wert County</p> <p>19 Commissioners, and Avangrid Renewables. All</p> <p>20 parties had much discussion, conversation and</p> <p>21 dialogue over a lengthy period of time.</p> <p>22 The District's goal was and is to be a</p> <p>23 team player in the process and work towards a</p> <p>24 common objective for all. We want to thank all</p> <p>25 entities for the amount of time and effort that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">37</p> <p>1 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Please</p> <p>2 state and spell your name for the record.</p> <p>3 MS. CASTO: My name is Kari Casto,</p> <p>4 K-A-R-I, C-A-S-T-O. And I live at 6671 Hoaglin</p> <p>5 Center Road, Van Wert, Ohio.</p> <p>6 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Do you live or work</p> <p>7 within the project area?</p> <p>8 MS. CASTO: I live within the area and</p> <p>9 previously had a business located there too.</p> <p>10 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Please</p> <p>11 proceed with your testimony.</p> <p>12 MS. CASTO: Good evening. My name is</p> <p>13 Kari Casto. I am a landowner in Hoaglin Township,</p> <p>14 a Lincolnview graduate, an educator, and local</p> <p>15 business owner. I also have children attending</p> <p>16 Lincolnview.</p> <p>17 I am excited for my small community to</p> <p>18 have the opportunity to expand in business</p> <p>19 revenue. Our community has not always been open</p> <p>20 to new business. We have pushed new business</p> <p>21 opportunities away, because we do not like change.</p> <p>22 I struggle with this as well, because I own a</p> <p>23 business. Everyone goes where they have always</p> <p>24 gone. I encourage my friends and neighbors to try</p> <p>25 something outside the box. Try to understand the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">38</p> <p>1 rights of the landowners. Try to understand the</p> <p>2 benefits for the community, the job opportunities,</p> <p>3 and how our children and grandchildren will</p> <p>4 benefit.</p> <p>5 I guess I look at the solar farms in</p> <p>6 -- in -- in a way, different way than most. As an</p> <p>7 educator, local business owner, parent, landowner,</p> <p>8 and neighbor to the possible solar farms, I ask</p> <p>9 you to take into consideration all the</p> <p>10 opportunities that our community stands to benefit</p> <p>11 from. Our county, our township, our schools and</p> <p>12 landowners, you are not being affected by</p> <p>13 accepting these opportunities. However, you are</p> <p>14 affecting the neighbors by speaking against</p> <p>15 landowners' rights, the rights of your neighbors</p> <p>16 to do what is in their best interest.</p> <p>17 My grandmother is a landowner. It is</p> <p>18 very important to me that we make the decisions</p> <p>19 for her and make sure she is provided for. If</p> <p>20 this was your parent, or grandparent, you would</p> <p>21 want to do what was needed to make sure that they</p> <p>22 were taken care of. I would not step in or</p> <p>23 interfere with you taking care of your loved one.</p> <p>24 I am asking for that same consideration for our</p> <p>25 family.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">40</p> <p>1 meeting.</p> <p>2 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Please raise your</p> <p>3 right hand.</p> <p>4 BRADLEY MAUNZ,</p> <p>5 WHO, BEING FIRST DULY SWORN,</p> <p>6 TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>7 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Please state and</p> <p>8 spell your name for the record.</p> <p>9 MR. MAUNZ: My name is Bradley A.</p> <p>10 Maunz, B-R-A-D-L-E-Y, M-A-U-N-Z.</p> <p>11 JUDGE ST. JOHN: And please provide</p> <p>12 your address.</p> <p>13 MR. MAUNZ: 4108 John Yoh Road.</p> <p>14 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Do you reside or work</p> <p>15 within the project area?</p> <p>16 MR. MAUNZ: I reside down the road</p> <p>17 from Bob that talked earlier, right on the corner.</p> <p>18 We're pretty much in the middle of the project,</p> <p>19 like he said, or we're actually to the, more of</p> <p>20 the west of the project.</p> <p>21 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>22 And please proceed with your testimony.</p> <p>23 MR. MAUNZ: Okay. I talked at the</p> <p>24 last meeting, and I -- I've heard everything</p> <p>25 talked about about the -- the money. Nobody's</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">39</p> <p>1 Please hear the words that all of us</p> <p>2 are speaking and let them sit in your heart.</p> <p>3 Process our requests, and soften your stance on</p> <p>4 solar panels. We all are neighbors and friends.</p> <p>5 Allow us to do what is right for our families and</p> <p>6 our farm ground, and we will do the same for you.</p> <p>7 Thank you.</p> <p>8 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you. Are</p> <p>9 there any questions --</p> <p>10 MS. HERRNSTEIN: No questions.</p> <p>11 JUDGE ST. JOHN: -- for this</p> <p>12 witness? Thank you.</p> <p>13 Next on my list, I have Brad</p> <p>14 Mauroz. Anyone here named Brad who signed up</p> <p>15 to testify?</p> <p>16 MR. MAUNZ: Bradley?</p> <p>17 JUDGE ST. JOHN: If you signed up,</p> <p>18 then this is you.</p> <p>19 MR. MAUNZ: Yeah. I think I signed</p> <p>20 up Bradley Maunz, so if you've got a Brad,</p> <p>21 that ain't me, but Bradley.</p> <p>22 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Well, this is the</p> <p>23 last name on our list, so I think it might be.</p> <p>24 MR. MAUNZ: If that's the last one,</p> <p>25 that would be me. I talked at the last</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">41</p> <p>1 talked about the wildlife. That's what I talked</p> <p>2 about the last meeting.</p> <p>3 I know that the deer, and I talked</p> <p>4 about the deer and stuff, and that really is no</p> <p>5 big concern to the farmers, and I understand that.</p> <p>6 However, I can tell you that the big woods that,</p> <p>7 in the back, the biggest woods within probably</p> <p>8 five miles, beside four miles of the operation, no</p> <p>9 hunting allowed. The game wardens have already</p> <p>10 talked to me about the woods being overpopulated,</p> <p>11 and this and that. All I'm going to say about the</p> <p>12 deer population, it don't matter, all the deer</p> <p>13 aren't going to be able to go east. They're all</p> <p>14 going to run to 127. There is going to be, I</p> <p>15 would bet, four or five times more deer/car</p> <p>16 accidents, which, I guess don't mean anything, to</p> <p>17 the west of the project on 127. I have looked at</p> <p>18 the map many times. I was here at the last one,</p> <p>19 and there is no way around. They're going to all</p> <p>20 go to 127. That's where they're going to cross.</p> <p>21 I talked about the windmills, the</p> <p>22 effect that it already had on us, the hunting. No</p> <p>23 big deal.</p> <p>24 The money, yes, like Bob said, I have</p> <p>25 lived there for 30 years. I just got my house</p>

1 paid for. Bought the house in '91. This will be  
 2 my 31st year there. All my kids went to  
 3 Lincolnview also. Got a nice, new school there.  
 4 I -- some of my kids went to the other schools,  
 5 the little ones, before they built the big one,  
 6 and we're paying the extra tax dollars now. That  
 7 doesn't bother me. So I don't think the money  
 8 needs all that -- the money needs to go to all  
 9 that schooling. That's -- that's one thing.

10 But as far as the last meeting, I  
 11 talked about both sides. I tried to put myself on  
 12 both sides of it, like these landowners, and I  
 13 understand they have older people that are, that  
 14 are going to -- 80 years old. My daddy is 84.  
 15 And that's -- they don't have to lease out the  
 16 land. My mom is 79, and she leases land out on  
 17 the other side of Van Wert County to a Neate  
 18 farmer, which is, she has him farming for her.  
 19 It's kind of a pain in the fanny for her to do  
 20 that, so I can see her, or these older people,  
 21 trying to -- to jump on that, the money, because  
 22 it would be a lot easier. I can understand that.  
 23 So I put myself on both sides, but I can't  
 24 understand why nobody, besides the deer and  
 25 turkeys, it's not that.

1 All you have to do, I have Googled, I  
 2 have brought, and nobody is going to get to see  
 3 them, but you can go to the internet, go to  
 4 Google, pull up solar farms and the effect on the  
 5 environment. Nobody's talked about the  
 6 environment. They talk about the money, money,  
 7 money.

8 It talks in here about ducks flying  
 9 over and their wings melting and falling to the  
 10 ground. I mean, all you have to do is -- is  
 11 research it. I've read hours and hours. There is  
 12 hundreds and hundreds of things on the internet.  
 13 It talks about all the ones that are already out  
 14 in -- in the -- in the California area, where the  
 15 tortoise turtle, remember years ago, when they  
 16 first started all these projects, the tortoise  
 17 turtle was a big thing. Well, that reptile, they,  
 18 it went -- pretty much went extinct, because the  
 19 heat in the ground. The reptiles, it tells you  
 20 all in this, that the reptiles in the creeks, it's  
 21 going to affect the frogs, it's going to affect  
 22 the turtles, muskrats, all of the reptiles are  
 23 going to be affected. Fish. Who knows? The fish  
 24 are going to get affected, and then they're going  
 25 to wind up in Lake Erie. Who knows what it's

1 going to do this close. All of these creeks flow  
 2 that way and end up there in the Maumee River.  
 3 Who knows? But all I know is all of these  
 4 articles talk about reptiles, birds, birds flying  
 5 over, and just literally their wings melting.

6 I mean, I guess I'm here to talk about  
 7 the reptiles and the animals forgot. I don't hunt  
 8 turtles and frogs. I hunt a little bit of deer,  
 9 but mostly just big racks. We don't, you know,  
 10 it's -- it's a -- it's a wildlife thing, like I  
 11 talked about with -- with the windmills. The deer  
 12 already are affected by the windmills, which I  
 13 know, the farmers don't care.

14 We -- we bought that property out  
 15 there. We love to hunt. Now, I go, instead of  
 16 coming out my door and walk into a creek that I  
 17 could hunt, it's just going to be worse. Instead  
 18 of walking out the door and actually not get in a  
 19 vehicle and walking and hunting wildlife, like  
 20 when I bought the property I expected to do, and  
 21 anybody that buys in the country, I grew up on the  
 22 other side of Van Wert County, my whole life, on  
 23 the -- on the other side, where they were going to  
 24 put windmills after our windmills, but I went to  
 25 some meetings over there, and between the people,

1 we got that got rid of. Mom -- mom and them would  
 2 have never loved -- she would have never wanted to  
 3 go through what we go through with the windmills  
 4 already.

5 You know, just out shooting the bow  
 6 yesterday and hearing the squeaking of a bearing  
 7 on the windmill close to me that's been squeaking  
 8 for two months. It's always windy out there. Go  
 9 to the pond, do a little fishing, you hear the  
 10 windmills.

11 They're saying they don't make no  
 12 noise, they're not going to affect the  
 13 environment. They do. All them things are right  
 14 in writing. All you have to do is Google solar  
 15 farms and impact on the environment. Tells you  
 16 hundreds and hundreds of scientists that go both  
 17 ways. Yes, they talk about, yes, this is a good  
 18 thing, windmills, or solar panels would be nice,  
 19 like they said, in areas where nobody lives, where  
 20 wildlife doesn't matter really as much. I mean,  
 21 wildlife always matters. Don't get me wrong  
 22 there, the ducks, turtles, anywhere they were  
 23 located, like the desert, where they put them and  
 24 they thought that would be great. They didn't  
 25 expect that. That -- that was 20 years ago. That

<p style="text-align: right;">46</p> <p>1 was some of the first places they went.</p> <p>2 Now, I just want to know how many</p> <p>3 people have actually went to where -- I know they</p> <p>4 have all kinds of little ones, like we work out of</p> <p>5 Fort Wayne every day. Over by Hometown, they</p> <p>6 have got like three acres in, three to four acres</p> <p>7 of them solar panels, and they'll have the</p> <p>8 seven-foot fence, so you can see the fence. You</p> <p>9 can see what the fence is going to be around them.</p> <p>10 They have them right off of going into Hometown.</p> <p>11 There is three, four acres. We look at them.</p> <p>12 Seven-foot fence, barbed wire. But has anybody</p> <p>13 ever been and went to where there is this many of</p> <p>14 them? I've seen some fields -- I went to some</p> <p>15 fields that were not even close, 4 or 500 acres in</p> <p>16 an area. It was def -- it was crazy.</p> <p>17 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Your --</p> <p>18 MR. MAUNZ: We're talking about --</p> <p>19 JUDGE ST. JOHN: -- your time is up.</p> <p>20 Would you like to make a conclusion?</p> <p>21 MR. MAUNZ: Was I supposed to get a</p> <p>22 warning?</p> <p>23 JUDGE ST. JOHN: I did hold the 30</p> <p>24 seconds up --</p> <p>25 MR. MAUNZ: I know you did.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">48</p> <p>1 participation this evening. We'd also like to</p> <p>2 thank the Van Wert County Fairgrounds for</p> <p>3 allowing us to use their facilities to conduct</p> <p>4 this public hearing. And thank you to Trustee</p> <p>5 Osting and Commissioner Wolfrum for attending.</p> <p>6 The hearing is now concluded, and</p> <p>7 the hearing transcript will be submitted on</p> <p>8 the record for the Board's consideration in</p> <p>9 this case. Thank you all and have a good</p> <p>10 evening.</p> <p>11 MAN: Judge, there are two other</p> <p>12 sheets in the back that they can sign either</p> <p>13 support or opposition of the project.</p> <p>14 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you.</p> <p>15 Everyone -- everyone, there is -- I would like</p> <p>16 to make just one quick announcement.</p> <p>17 Everyone. Hey, everybody. Just want to make</p> <p>18 one quick announcement. There are sign-up</p> <p>19 sheets in the back. If all you would like to</p> <p>20 say is whether you support or oppose the</p> <p>21 project, there are sign-up sheets in the back</p> <p>22 that you can sign your name. And again,</p> <p>23 that's another way that you can let the Board</p> <p>24 know. Thank you.</p> <p>25 (Whereupon, at 6:46, the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">47</p> <p>1 JUDGE ST. JOHN: -- up here. Just if</p> <p>2 you'd like to make any concluding statements.</p> <p>3 MR. MAUNZ: Well, my -- when I bought</p> <p>4 this house 30 years ago, my dad told me, he had a</p> <p>5 car dealership in Van Wert back in the '70s,</p> <p>6 before the energy crisis. He's eighty -- he's 83</p> <p>7 now. And he told me, son, I bought a house here,</p> <p>8 because my mother lived close. And I went to</p> <p>9 Lincolnview School district. And my daddy always</p> <p>10 told me that Van Wert County was the duck's A-hole</p> <p>11 of Ohio. And now it's really getting close to, in</p> <p>12 my eyes, actually seeing that.</p> <p>13 The windmills were enough. We don't</p> <p>14 need the solar. I think it's the farmers just</p> <p>15 want to take the easy way out. Thank you.</p> <p>16 JUDGE ST. JOHN: Thank you for your</p> <p>17 testimony.</p> <p>18 MS. HERRNSTEIN: No questions.</p> <p>19 JUDGE ST. JOHN: All right. And</p> <p>20 this concludes the witnesses who have signed</p> <p>21 up to testify. Is there anyone else present</p> <p>22 this evening who would like to testify?</p> <p>23 (No response.)</p> <p>24 JUDGE ST. JOHN: All right. Seeing</p> <p>25 none, thank you to everyone for their</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">49</p> <p>1 proceedings concluded.)</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>

## C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Angela A. O'Neill, Registered Merit  
Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing,  
consisting of 49 pages, is a true and complete  
transcript of the proceedings conducted on the  
10th day of May, 2022, before Jacky St. John,  
Administrative Law Judge.

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Angela A. O'Neill, RMR  
My Comm Expires: Aug 2022

<b>\$</b>	<b>4108</b> [1] - 40:13 <b>419</b> [1] - 1:24 <b>43209</b> [1] - 6:15 <b>43215</b> [1] - 2:5 <b>4508</b> [1] - 19:22 <b>45882</b> [1] - 1:23 <b>45891</b> [2] - 1:14, 34:24 <b>49</b> [1] - 50:5	16:17 <b>ad</b> [3] - 4:25, 5:3, 5:9 <b>add</b> [3] - 15:11, 23:4, 36:13 <b>addition</b> [2] - 5:1, 17:24 <b>additional</b> [3] - 10:17, 12:20, 36:4 <b>additionally</b> [1] - 15:18 <b>address</b> [13] - 9:10, 11:11, 14:7, 19:20, 22:4, 24:7, 26:20, 32:17, 34:17, 34:20, 34:21, 34:22, 40:12 <b>addressed</b> [3] - 17:4, 22:8, 33:19 <b>Administration</b> [1] - 35:12 <b>Administrative</b> [2] - 4:17, 50:8 <b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b> [1] - 1:8 <b>Affairs</b> [1] - 6:1 <b>affect</b> [4] - 28:3, 43:21, 45:12 <b>affected</b> [5] - 7:25, 38:12, 43:23, 43:24, 44:12 <b>affecting</b> [1] - 38:14 <b>affects</b> [3] - 27:18, 30:8, 31:1 <b>affirmation</b> [1] - 9:8 <b>ago</b> [5] - 15:1, 21:1, 43:15, 45:25, 47:4 <b>agreement</b> [4] - 12:9, 17:25, 22:21, 22:24 <b>agreements</b> [1] - 28:11 <b>agrees</b> [1] - 20:8 <b>ahead</b> [1] - 4:7 <b>ain't</b> [1] - 39:21 <b>Alfred</b> [2] - 2:10, 5:8 <b>Allen</b> [3] - 29:8, 29:10, 31:12 <b>allow</b> [1] - 39:5 <b>allowed</b> [2] - 23:5, 41:9 <b>allowing</b> [5] - 16:23, 21:23, 22:15, 36:15, 48:3 <b>alma</b> [1] - 17:21 <b>alongside</b> [1] - 15:1 <b>already-sprawling</b> [1] - 28:18 <b>altogether</b> [1] - 28:15 <b>amazes</b> [1] - 15:5 <b>amount</b> [1] - 35:25 <b>AND</b> [1] - 1:5 <b>Angela</b> [3] - 1:22,	50:3, 50:12 <b>angering</b> [1] - 22:11 <b>animals</b> [1] - 44:7 <b>announcement</b> [2] - 48:16, 48:18 <b>answer</b> [5] - 8:4, 9:25, 25:5, 25:21, 25:22 <b>anyway</b> [1] - 23:8 <b>appearance</b> [1] - 6:25 <b>APPEARANCES</b> [1] - 2:1 <b>appearances</b> [1] - 6:11 <b>appease</b> [1] - 22:1 <b>Applicant</b> [2] - 6:16, 25:24 <b>Application</b> [1] - 4:12 <b>application</b> [4] - 7:12, 7:16, 7:24, 9:19 <b>appointed</b> [2] - 5:6, 5:8 <b>appreciate</b> [3] - 21:11, 25:12, 31:3 <b>appreciated</b> [1] - 17:4 <b>appreciates</b> [1] - 10:5 <b>apprenticeship</b> [1] - 12:15 <b>appropriate</b> [1] - 15:17 <b>approval</b> [1] - 11:24 <b>approve</b> [1] - 23:10 <b>approved</b> [2] - 12:18, 29:9 <b>approving</b> [2] - 12:25, 30:25 <b>April</b> [1] - 7:18 <b>area</b> [30] - 11:16, 11:19, 14:14, 19:25, 21:2, 22:6, 23:7, 24:11, 25:7, 26:24, 27:10, 27:22, 28:6, 28:10, 28:14, 28:20, 28:21, 28:23, 28:24, 29:2, 29:12, 29:21, 32:21, 32:25, 35:4, 37:7, 37:8, 40:15, 43:14, 46:16 <b>areas</b> [1] - 45:19 <b>ARNOLD</b> [1] - 7:1 <b>Arnold</b> [2] - 2:8, 7:2 <b>article</b> [1] - 31:18 <b>articles</b> [1] - 44:4 <b>AS</b> [9] - 11:5, 14:1, 19:14, 23:22, 26:13, 32:10, 34:10, 36:25, 40:6 <b>aspect</b> [1] - 8:8 <b>aspects</b> [2] - 17:13, 33:5 <b>assigned</b> [1] - 4:18	<b>assistance</b> [1] - 6:6 <b>assisting</b> [1] - 5:24 <b>associated</b> [1] - 12:10 <b>assume</b> [1] - 16:6 <b>assured</b> [1] - 29:17 <b>attending</b> [2] - 37:15, 48:5 <b>attorney</b> [1] - 18:19 <b>attractive</b> [1] - 17:13 <b>Aug</b> [1] - 50:13 <b>Austin</b> [1] - 30:14 <b>available</b> [1] - 6:4 <b>Avangrid</b> [8] - 2:7, 6:21, 12:9, 17:3, 18:2, 21:25, 22:19, 35:19 <b>avoid</b> [1] - 28:14 <b>awful</b> [1] - 30:4
<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>50</b> [2] - 18:11, 28:2 <b>500</b> [1] - 46:15 <b>52</b> [1] - 4:19 <b>5308</b> [1] - 24:8			
<b>100</b> [3] - 2:4, 6:14, 30:15 <b>1051</b> [1] - 32:18 <b>1055</b> [1] - 1:13 <b>10th</b> [1] - 50:7 <b>11</b> [1] - 3:4 <b>1237</b> [1] - 6:19 <b>127</b> [3] - 41:14, 41:17, 41:20 <b>14</b> [1] - 3:4 <b>150</b> [1] - 7:15 <b>15314</b> [1] - 26:21 <b>15945</b> [1] - 34:23 <b>16</b> [1] - 7:16 <b>18</b> [4] - 7:18, 11:23, 12:5, 12:25 <b>19</b> [1] - 3:5	<b>6</b>  <b>6</b> [1] - 4:6 <b>614</b> [1] - 2:5 <b>6423</b> [1] - 14:11 <b>650</b> [1] - 27:9 <b>6671</b> [1] - 37:4 <b>669</b> [1] - 14:10 <b>6729</b> [1] - 1:23 <b>6:00</b> [1] - 1:12 <b>6:46</b> [1] - 48:25			
<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>79</b> [1] - 42:16			
<b>20</b> [1] - 45:25 <b>2021</b> [1] - 7:16 <b>2022</b> [5] - 1:11, 7:18, 8:10, 50:7, 50:13 <b>21-823-EL-BGN</b> [2] - 1:2, 4:11 <b>224</b> [1] - 26:21 <b>227-2300</b> [1] - 2:5 <b>24</b> [1] - 3:5 <b>2412</b> [1] - 11:12 <b>25th</b> [1] - 8:10 <b>26</b> [1] - 3:6	<b>8</b>  <b>80</b> [1] - 42:14 <b>83</b> [1] - 47:6 <b>84</b> [1] - 42:14			
<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>91-year-old</b> [1] - 14:20 <b>9th</b> [1] - 20:12			
<b>3</b> [1] - 1:11 <b>30</b> [5] - 10:12, 21:1, 41:25, 46:23, 47:4 <b>302-4039</b> [1] - 1:24 <b>31st</b> [1] - 42:2 <b>32</b> [1] - 3:6 <b>34</b> [1] - 3:7 <b>37</b> [1] - 3:7	<b>A</b>  <b>A-hole</b> [1] - 47:10 <b>A-R-N-O-L-D</b> [1] - 7:2 <b>able</b> [5] - 16:20, 20:21, 25:22, 33:22, 41:13 <b>absolute</b> [1] - 29:4 <b>accepting</b> [1] - 38:13 <b>accessing</b> [1] - 6:6 <b>accidents</b> [1] - 41:16 <b>accurate</b> [1] - 8:24 <b>accurately</b> [1] - 8:18 <b>acknowledge</b> [1] - 21:13 <b>acres</b> [5] - 27:9, 46:6, 46:11, 46:15 <b>activity</b> [2] - 15:9,			
<b>4</b>				
<b>4</b> [1] - 46:15 <b>4.79</b> [1] - 29:2 <b>40</b> [1] - 3:8				

<b>benefits</b> [3] - 12:15, 23:3, 38:2 <b>beside</b> [1] - 41:8 <b>best</b> [3] - 18:20, 21:14, 38:16 <b>bet</b> [1] - 41:15 <b>better</b> [2] - 4:4, 19:18 <b>between</b> [3] - 17:25, 35:17, 44:25 <b>beyond</b> [2] - 16:10, 22:1 <b>big</b> [6] - 41:5, 41:6, 41:23, 42:5, 43:17, 44:9 <b>biggest</b> [2] - 33:21, 41:7 <b>Bill</b> [1] - 4:19 <b>birds</b> [2] - 44:4 <b>bit</b> [1] - 44:8 <b>Board</b> [21] - 4:9, 5:5, 5:7, 5:24, 7:17, 7:19, 8:5, 8:12, 9:18, 9:25, 10:5, 12:24, 20:12, 25:25, 27:9, 28:4, 30:7, 31:2, 35:11, 35:13, 48:23 <b>board</b> [3] - 5:1, 5:3, 5:9 <b>Board's</b> [5] - 4:17, 6:5, 7:20, 8:10, 48:8 <b>Bob</b> [5] - 3:5, 23:16, 24:4, 40:17, 41:24 <b>BOB</b> [2] - 23:20, 24:4 <b>bother</b> [2] - 21:17, 42:7 <b>bought</b> [6] - 15:3, 42:1, 44:14, 44:20, 47:3, 47:7 <b>Boulevard</b> [1] - 32:19 <b>bow</b> [1] - 45:5 <b>box</b> [1] - 37:25 <b>Brad</b> [3] - 39:13, 39:14, 39:20 <b>Bradley</b> [5] - 3:8, 39:16, 39:20, 39:21, 40:9 <b>BRADLEY</b> [2] - 40:4, 40:10 <b>BRENNEMAN</b> [9] - 26:11, 26:16, 26:21, 26:25, 27:2, 27:5, 31:20, 31:23, 31:25 <b>Brenneman</b> [5] - 3:6, 26:10, 26:17, 27:6 <b>Bricker</b> [2] - 2:4, 6:14 <b>bridges</b> [1] - 12:4 <b>briefly</b> [1] - 30:20 <b>bring</b> [1] - 27:8 <b>brings</b> [1] - 28:20 <b>brought</b> [1] - 43:2	<b>buffer</b> [1] - 30:2 <b>build</b> [2] - 16:7, 28:13 <b>buildings</b> [1] - 36:8 <b>built</b> [3] - 12:5, 21:8, 42:5 <b>bulldozers</b> [1] - 12:3 <b>burden</b> [1] - 36:5 <b>Bureau</b> [2] - 2:8, 7:4 <b>business</b> [7] - 37:9, 37:15, 37:18, 37:20, 37:23, 38:7 <b>buys</b> [1] - 44:21	<b>closing</b> [2] - 23:4, 36:15 <b>collaboration</b> [1] - 35:17 <b>Collins</b> [1] - 19:3 <b>Columbus</b> [3] - 2:5, 6:15, 8:11 <b>comfort</b> [1] - 21:18 <b>coming</b> [1] - 44:16 <b>Comm</b> [1] - 50:13 <b>commence</b> [1] - 8:9 <b>commend</b> [1] - 35:16 <b>comments</b> [6] - 8:19, 9:24, 10:12, 10:17, 10:19, 11:1 <b>commercial</b> [1] - 21:2 <b>commissioner</b> [1] - 4:25 <b>Commissioner</b> [5] - 2:9, 5:6, 5:10, 5:18, 48:5 <b>commissioners</b> [3] - 4:21, 4:24, 18:1 <b>Commissioners</b> [3] - 5:6, 29:8, 35:19 <b>common</b> [1] - 35:24 <b>communicating</b> [1] - 17:3 <b>community</b> [9] - 4:23, 7:25, 17:15, 20:18, 27:19, 37:17, 37:19, 38:2, 38:10 <b>COMPATIBILITY</b> [1] - 1:5 <b>Compatibility</b> [1] - 4:14 <b>compensate</b> [1] - 22:25 <b>compensation</b> [2] - 18:3, 24:19 <b>complaints</b> [1] - 21:24 <b>complete</b> [1] - 50:5 <b>completely</b> [1] - 15:20 <b>complex</b> [1] - 29:24 <b>comprehension</b> [1] - 16:11 <b>concern</b> [3] - 28:6, 28:21, 41:5 <b>concerned</b> [1] - 22:12 <b>concerning</b> [3] - 6:5, 29:20, 33:20 <b>concerns</b> [5] - 17:5, 22:2, 22:5, 30:8, 33:3 <b>concluded</b> [2] - 48:6, 49:1 <b>concludes</b> [1] - 47:20 <b>concluding</b> [1] - 47:2 <b>conclusion</b> [1] - 46:20 <b>conduct</b> [1] - 48:3	<b>conducted</b> [1] - 50:6 <b>consider</b> [2] - 16:23, 28:4 <b>consideration</b> [5] - 21:16, 30:17, 38:9, 38:24, 48:8 <b>considered</b> [2] - 9:16, 15:25 <b>consisting</b> [1] - 50:5 <b>constituents</b> [1] - 36:4 <b>constructing</b> [1] - 7:13 <b>contained</b> [2] - 28:23, 29:11 <b>containing</b> [1] - 29:6 <b>continue</b> [4] - 12:16, 22:9, 22:16, 36:7 <b>contractors</b> [1] - 12:11 <b>conversation</b> [1] - 35:20 <b>Convoy</b> [1] - 19:22 <b>cooperation</b> [1] - 22:20 <b>copy</b> [1] - 8:22 <b>corn</b> [2] - 20:19, 22:17 <b>corner</b> [5] - 29:1, 29:2, 29:3, 40:17 <b>counsel</b> [7] - 7:6, 7:8, 13:4, 18:22, 25:23, 32:2, 34:3 <b>country</b> [5] - 22:18, 25:12, 33:6, 33:7, 44:21 <b>countryside</b> [1] - 29:22 <b>countryside's</b> [1] - 15:19 <b>County</b> [14] - 1:13, 5:5, 7:15, 17:19, 22:22, 29:8, 29:10, 31:12, 35:18, 36:12, 42:17, 44:22, 47:10, 48:2 <b>county</b> [6] - 4:20, 4:24, 15:7, 16:12, 29:15, 38:11 <b>couple</b> [1] - 9:20 <b>course</b> [4] - 15:10, 16:9, 16:16, 18:8 <b>court</b> [3] - 8:16, 8:18, 8:22 <b>Court</b> [1] - 6:19 <b>crazy</b> [1] - 46:16 <b>create</b> [1] - 12:19 <b>creek</b> [1] - 44:16 <b>Creek</b> [1] - 28:25 <b>creeks</b> [2] - 43:20, 44:1 <b>creep</b> [2] - 27:17, 28:7	<b>crisis</b> [1] - 47:6 <b>cross</b> [1] - 41:20 <b>curious</b> [1] - 25:18
<b>D</b>				
<b>D-O-V-E</b> [1] - 14:5 <b>dad</b> [2] - 14:25, 47:4 <b>daddy</b> [2] - 42:14, 47:9 <b>dairy</b> [1] - 21:3 <b>DALE</b> [1] - 7:2 <b>Dale</b> [2] - 2:8, 7:2 <b>damage</b> [2] - 28:11, 29:7 <b>Daniel</b> [1] - 13:10 <b>DATE</b> [1] - 1:11 <b>deal</b> [1] - 41:23 <b>dealership</b> [1] - 47:5 <b>dealt</b> [1] - 33:15 <b>decide</b> [3] - 9:21, 9:23, 28:17 <b>decision</b> [1] - 9:18 <b>decisions</b> [1] - 38:18 <b>deeply</b> [1] - 27:18 <b>deer</b> [7] - 41:3, 41:4, 41:12, 42:24, 44:8, 44:11 <b>deer/car</b> [1] - 41:15 <b>def</b> [1] - 46:16 <b>deliberately</b> [1] - 16:1 <b>denied</b> [1] - 20:13 <b>Department</b> [2] - 4:18, 6:1 <b>depreciation</b> [1] - 25:18 <b>describe</b> [1] - 30:10 <b>desert</b> [2] - 25:12, 45:23 <b>designee</b> [2] - 4:25, 5:3 <b>desirable</b> [1] - 29:24 <b>desire</b> [2] - 18:4, 20:14 <b>despite</b> [1] - 15:5 <b>details</b> [1] - 15:11 <b>determination</b> [1] - 7:21 <b>determined</b> [2] - 15:16, 16:4 <b>devalue</b> [1] - 25:2 <b>devastating</b> [1] - 27:21 <b>develop</b> [1] - 15:2 <b>Developer</b> [1] - 6:19 <b>developer</b> [1] - 6:20 <b>development</b> [16] - 27:10, 27:17, 27:19, 28:7, 28:10, 28:14, 28:18, 28:21, 29:1, 29:9, 29:11, 29:14,				



<p>29:16, 30:16, 31:4, 31:8</p> <p><b>dialogue</b> [1] - 35:21</p> <p><b>dictate</b> [2] - 14:24, 16:24</p> <p><b>dictated</b> [1] - 20:17</p> <p><b>different</b> [2] - 27:8, 38:6</p> <p><b>direction</b> [1] - 16:6</p> <p><b>directly</b> [1] - 31:1</p> <p><b>Director</b> [1] - 7:3</p> <p><b>discretion</b> [1] - 20:20</p> <p><b>discussion</b> [1] - 35:20</p> <p><b>disgusting</b> [1] - 15:13</p> <p><b>distance</b> [1] - 28:25</p> <p><b>District</b> [3] - 34:19, 35:4</p> <p><b>district</b> [3] - 35:1, 35:5, 47:9</p> <p><b>District 's</b> [1] - 35:22</p> <p><b>docket</b> [1] - 9:25</p> <p><b>documents</b> [1] - 6:7</p> <p><b>dollars</b> [2] - 36:8, 42:6</p> <p><b>done</b> [5] - 20:18, 25:5, 28:12, 33:16, 36:6</p> <p><b>door</b> [2] - 44:16, 44:18</p> <p><b>Dove</b> [3] - 3:4, 13:14, 14:5</p> <p><b>DOVE</b> [6] - 13:17, 13:24, 14:4, 14:9, 14:15, 14:18</p> <p><b>down</b> [2] - 23:17, 40:16</p> <p><b>Dr</b> [1] - 30:13</p> <p><b>drive</b> [1] - 12:4</p> <p><b>duck's</b> [1] - 47:10</p> <p><b>ducks</b> [2] - 43:8, 45:22</p> <p><b>due</b> [1] - 15:13</p> <p><b>DULY</b> [9] - 11:4, 13:25, 19:13, 23:21, 26:12, 32:9, 34:9, 36:24, 40:5</p> <p><b>during</b> [2] - 25:15, 30:22</p>	<p>38:7</p> <p><b>effect</b> [3] - 27:21, 41:22, 43:4</p> <p><b>effort</b> [1] - 35:25</p> <p><b>eighty</b> [1] - 47:6</p> <p><b>either</b> [3] - 13:7, 25:16, 48:12</p> <p><b>electric</b> [1] - 7:14</p> <p><b>Electrical</b> [1] - 21:7</p> <p><b>Ellen</b> [3] - 3:4, 13:14, 14:4</p> <p><b>ELLEN</b> [2] - 13:24, 14:4</p> <p><b>employer</b> [1] - 17:20</p> <p><b>employment</b> [1] - 12:13</p> <p><b>encompasses</b> [1] - 35:6</p> <p><b>encourage</b> [3] - 12:23, 22:9, 37:24</p> <p><b>end</b> [2] - 17:1, 44:2</p> <p><b>energy</b> [7] - 12:21, 33:4, 33:5, 33:6, 33:8, 33:9, 47:6</p> <p><b>Energy</b> [1] - 7:3</p> <p><b>engage</b> [1] - 15:9</p> <p><b>Engineers</b> [1] - 11:23</p> <p><b>engineers</b> [1] - 12:1</p> <p><b>enhance</b> [1] - 36:8</p> <p><b>enjoy</b> [3] - 15:12, 15:18, 17:22</p> <p><b>ensure</b> [2] - 8:23, 18:4</p> <p><b>entered</b> [1] - 22:24</p> <p><b>entire</b> [1] - 18:7</p> <p><b>entities</b> [2] - 17:16, 35:25</p> <p><b>environment</b> [4] - 43:5, 43:6, 45:13, 45:15</p> <p><b>Environmental</b> [1] - 4:14</p> <p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b> [1] - 1:5</p> <p><b>equipment</b> [1] - 12:2</p> <p><b>Erie</b> [1] - 43:25</p> <p><b>especially</b> [3] - 21:10, 25:14, 30:25</p> <p><b>ESQ</b> [1] - 2:3</p> <p><b>established</b> [1] - 28:8</p> <p><b>estate</b> [1] - 18:10</p> <p><b>ethic</b> [1] - 15:4</p> <p><b>evening</b> [16] - 4:1, 4:2, 4:5, 5:11, 5:15, 5:21, 6:2, 6:24, 14:18, 23:18, 27:5, 32:6, 37:12, 47:22, 48:1, 48:10</p> <p><b>evening 's</b> [1] - 7:22</p> <p><b>evidence</b> [1] - 8:13</p> <p><b>evidentiary</b> [2] - 8:9,</p>	<p>8:11</p> <p><b>evolve</b> [1] - 36:9</p> <p><b>excavators</b> [1] - 12:3</p> <p><b>excellent</b> [1] - 16:4</p> <p><b>excited</b> [1] - 37:17</p> <p><b>excuse</b> [1] - 4:22</p> <p><b>exhibit</b> [1] - 31:22</p> <p><b>expand</b> [2] - 28:17, 37:18</p> <p><b>expect</b> [3] - 12:20, 20:21, 45:25</p> <p><b>expected</b> [2] - 28:2, 44:20</p> <p><b>Expires</b> [1] - 50:13</p> <p><b>expressed</b> [1] - 18:16</p> <p><b>expressing</b> [1] - 20:12</p> <p><b>extinct</b> [1] - 43:18</p> <p><b>extra</b> [1] - 42:6</p> <p><b>eyes</b> [1] - 47:12</p> <p><b>eyesore</b> [1] - 30:11</p>	<p><b>fear</b> [1] - 28:15</p> <p><b>FEASBY</b> [8] - 19:4, 19:9, 19:12, 19:17, 19:22, 20:1, 20:4, 20:11</p> <p><b>Feasby</b> [3] - 3:5, 19:2, 19:17</p> <p><b>feet</b> [1] - 30:15</p> <p><b>fellow</b> [1] - 12:6</p> <p><b>FEMALE</b> [1] - 4:4</p> <p><b>fence</b> [4] - 46:8, 46:9, 46:12</p> <p><b>few</b> [2] - 15:11, 20:15</p> <p><b>fiduciary</b> [1] - 33:13</p> <p><b>field</b> [2] - 13:14, 27:24</p> <p><b>fields</b> [3] - 31:9, 46:14, 46:15</p> <p><b>Fife</b> [1] - 28:25</p> <p><b>file</b> [2] - 9:24, 10:19</p> <p><b>filed</b> [3] - 7:12, 7:16, 7:17</p> <p><b>final</b> [2] - 7:21, 9:18</p> <p><b>financial</b> [1] - 36:7</p> <p><b>financially</b> [1] - 36:3</p> <p><b>fine</b> [1] - 34:22</p> <p><b>finish</b> [2] - 8:25, 10:2</p> <p><b>firmly</b> [1] - 22:15</p> <p><b>FIRST</b> [9] - 11:4, 13:25, 19:13, 23:21, 26:12, 32:9, 34:9, 36:24, 40:5</p> <p><b>first</b> [6] - 6:12, 10:23, 17:2, 27:23, 43:16, 46:1</p> <p><b>fish</b> [2] - 43:23</p> <p><b>fishing</b> [1] - 45:9</p> <p><b>fit</b> [1] - 18:13</p> <p><b>five</b> [5] - 10:10, 10:13, 21:3, 41:8, 41:15</p> <p><b>flow</b> [1] - 44:1</p> <p><b>flying</b> [2] - 43:8, 44:4</p> <p><b>folks</b> [2] - 5:13, 33:11</p> <p><b>FOLLOWS</b> [9] - 11:5, 14:1, 19:14, 23:22, 26:13, 32:10, 34:10, 36:25, 40:6</p> <p><b>food</b> [1] - 30:22</p> <p><b>foot</b> [2] - 46:8, 46:12</p> <p><b>footprint</b> [2] - 28:16, 29:5</p> <p><b>FOR</b> [1] - 1:4</p> <p><b>foregoing</b> [1] - 50:4</p> <p><b>forgot</b> [1] - 44:7</p> <p><b>forklifts</b> [1] - 12:3</p> <p><b>forms</b> [1] - 33:6</p> <p><b>Fort</b> [2] - 20:25, 46:5</p> <p><b>forward</b> [1] - 23:2</p> <p><b>fossil</b> [1] - 33:8</p> <p><b>four</b> [5] - 15:1, 41:8,</p>	<p>41:15, 46:6, 46:11</p> <p><b>friends</b> [2] - 37:24, 39:4</p> <p><b>frogs</b> [2] - 43:21, 44:8</p> <p><b>front</b> [1] - 10:25</p> <p><b>frustration</b> [1] - 20:13</p> <p><b>fuels</b> [1] - 33:8</p> <p><b>future</b> [7] - 27:12, 27:17, 28:7, 28:17, 29:11, 29:15, 33:14</p>
<b>G</b>				
<p><b>gain</b> [1] - 18:5</p> <p><b>game</b> [1] - 41:9</p> <p><b>garden</b> [1] - 20:22</p> <p><b>general</b> [1] - 6:8</p> <p><b>generates</b> [1] - 27:14</p> <p><b>Generating</b> [1] - 21:7</p> <p><b>generation</b> [1] - 7:14</p> <p><b>generations</b> [1] - 33:14</p> <p><b>generous</b> [1] - 23:3</p> <p><b>gerrymandered</b> [2] - 27:19, 28:21</p> <p><b>GIROD</b> [3] - 13:20, 13:24, 14:5</p> <p><b>Girod</b> [5] - 3:4, 13:14, 13:15, 14:4, 18:10</p> <p><b>given</b> [1] - 36:1</p> <p><b>goal</b> [1] - 35:22</p> <p><b>golf</b> [1] - 16:9</p> <p><b>Google</b> [3] - 29:3, 43:4, 45:14</p> <p><b>Googled</b> [1] - 43:1</p> <p><b>Government</b> [1] - 7:4</p> <p><b>graduate</b> [1] - 37:14</p> <p><b>GRAINS</b> [2] - 1:3, 2:2</p> <p><b>Grains</b> [11] - 4:13, 6:12, 7:12, 11:24, 12:18, 12:25, 14:21, 16:2, 27:10, 31:7, 35:14</p> <p><b>grandchildren</b> [2] - 28:3, 38:3</p> <p><b>grandmother</b> [1] - 38:17</p> <p><b>grandparent</b> [1] - 38:20</p> <p><b>great</b> [3] - 22:3, 33:19, 45:24</p> <p><b>grew</b> [1] - 44:21</p> <p><b>ground</b> [8] - 16:9, 16:19, 30:21, 31:10, 36:9, 39:6, 43:10, 43:19</p> <p><b>grow</b> [1] - 12:16</p> <p><b>grown</b> [2] - 16:25, 30:3</p> <p><b>growth</b> [3] - 21:10,</p>				

28:16, 36:13 <b>guess</b> [3] - 38:5, 41:16, 44:6	<b>hole</b> [1] - 47:10 <b>home</b> [7] - 24:22, 25:1, 28:12, 28:13, 29:22, 30:1, 31:11 <b>homeowner</b> [2] - 17:5, 27:6 <b>homeowners</b> [7] - 18:3, 22:13, 22:25, 23:7, 24:19, 25:7, 29:25 <b>homes</b> [3] - 16:8, 21:18, 30:15 <b>Honor</b> [1] - 7:1 <b>hope</b> [1] - 27:7 <b>horizon</b> [1] - 15:19 <b>hours</b> [2] - 43:11 <b>house</b> [6] - 20:24, 21:8, 41:25, 42:1, 47:4, 47:7 <b>huge</b> [1] - 21:6 <b>hundreds</b> [5] - 21:5, 43:12, 45:16 <b>hunt</b> [4] - 44:7, 44:8, 44:15, 44:17 <b>Huntertown</b> [2] - 46:5, 46:10 <b>hunting</b> [3] - 41:9, 41:22, 44:19	<b>instead</b> [3] - 21:23, 44:15, 44:17 <b>interest</b> [2] - 18:20, 38:16 <b>interfere</b> [1] - 38:23 <b>internet</b> [2] - 43:3, 43:12 <b>introduction</b> [1] - 9:1 <b>Inverness</b> [1] - 6:19 <b>investigation</b> [1] - 7:18 <b>invitation</b> [1] - 35:13 <b>inviting</b> [1] - 9:1 <b>involved</b> [3] - 16:2, 22:21, 23:3 <b>isolated</b> [1] - 21:1 <b>issue</b> [5] - 14:22, 27:18, 27:23, 28:2, 31:1 <b>issues</b> [3] - 22:8, 30:18, 33:20	40:21, 46:17, 46:19, 46:23, 47:1, 47:16, 47:19, 47:24, 48:14 <b>john</b> [2] - 23:23, 50:7 <b>join</b> [1] - 5:10 <b>judge</b> [1] - 48:11 <b>Judge</b> [2] - 4:17, 50:8 <b>JUDGE</b> [88] - 1:8, 4:1, 4:5, 5:15, 5:18, 5:21, 6:22, 7:10, 11:6, 11:10, 11:15, 11:20, 13:2, 13:6, 13:12, 13:19, 13:22, 14:2, 14:6, 14:13, 14:16, 18:21, 18:25, 19:7, 19:10, 19:15, 19:19, 19:24, 20:3, 20:9, 23:11, 23:14, 23:18, 23:23, 24:2, 24:6, 24:10, 24:14, 24:16, 25:20, 26:5, 26:8, 26:14, 26:19, 26:23, 27:1, 27:3, 31:16, 31:21, 31:24, 32:1, 32:5, 32:11, 32:16, 32:20, 32:23, 33:1, 33:25, 34:3, 34:6, 34:11, 34:16, 34:21, 34:25, 35:3, 35:8, 36:17, 36:20, 37:1, 37:6, 37:10, 39:8, 39:11, 39:17, 39:22, 40:2, 40:7, 40:11, 40:14, 40:21, 46:17, 46:19, 46:23, 47:1, 47:16, 47:19, 47:24, 48:14 <b>jump</b> [1] - 42:21	<b>kitchen</b> [1] - 21:6 <b>known</b> [1] - 19:18 <b>knows</b> [3] - 43:23, 43:25, 44:3
<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>hand</b> [9] - 11:2, 13:23, 19:11, 23:19, 26:10, 32:7, 34:7, 36:22, 40:3 <b>hard</b> [2] - 15:1, 22:20 <b>harm</b> [1] - 20:18 <b>harming</b> [1] - 33:24 <b>healthcare</b> [1] - 12:15 <b>hear</b> [4] - 4:3, 4:18, 39:1, 45:9 <b>heard</b> [3] - 24:18, 24:20, 40:24 <b>HEARING</b> [1] - 1:1 <b>hearing</b> [20] - 4:7, 4:10, 5:24, 6:8, 7:11, 7:23, 8:3, 8:7, 8:9, 8:12, 8:15, 10:4, 10:6, 26:2, 35:14, 36:16, 45:6, 48:4, 48:6, 48:7 <b>heart</b> [1] - 39:2 <b>heat</b> [1] - 43:19 <b>heavy</b> [1] - 12:2 <b>heir</b> [1] - 27:12 <b>held</b> [1] - 22:4 <b>help</b> [1] - 17:7 <b>helpful</b> [1] - 8:21 <b>hereby</b> [1] - 50:4 <b>HERRNSTEIN</b> [10] - 2:3, 6:13, 13:5, 18:24, 23:13, 26:7, 34:2, 36:19, 39:10, 47:18 <b>hHERRNSTEIN</b> [1] - 32:4 <b>Herrnstein</b> [1] - 6:14 <b>high</b> [1] - 12:14 <b>high-paying</b> [1] - 12:14 <b>highly</b> [1] - 30:20 <b>highly-productive</b> [1] - 30:20 <b>Hoaglin</b> [19] - 5:7, 14:11, 14:12, 17:19, 18:2, 18:3, 22:22, 26:22, 27:7, 27:22, 28:15, 29:20, 30:6, 30:23, 31:14, 35:7, 35:18, 37:4, 37:13 <b>hoc</b> [3] - 5:1, 5:3, 5:9 <b>hog</b> [2] - 15:12, 21:4 <b>hogs</b> [1] - 15:15 <b>hold</b> [1] - 46:23 <b>holding</b> [1] - 10:11	<b>illegal</b> [3] - 15:9, 16:16, 18:14 <b>imagery</b> [1] - 29:4 <b>imagine</b> [2] - 29:21, 29:24 <b>immediate</b> [1] - 28:24 <b>impact</b> [2] - 12:20, 45:15 <b>important</b> [1] - 38:18 <b>imposing</b> [1] - 36:4 <b>IN</b> [1] - 1:2 <b>include</b> [2] - 16:16, 27:15 <b>including</b> [4] - 11:11, 14:7, 17:6, 19:20 <b>increase</b> [1] - 24:22 <b>Indiana</b> [2] - 6:20, 21:21 <b>indicated</b> [2] - 5:14, 5:20 <b>indicates</b> [1] - 30:14 <b>individual</b> [1] - 10:23 <b>individuals</b> [7] - 5:25, 6:3, 9:2, 12:2, 14:23, 19:2, 26:2 <b>industrial</b> [2] - 29:13, 29:23 <b>industry</b> [1] - 12:17 <b>insecurity</b> [1] - 30:22	<b>Jacky</b> [2] - 4:16, 50:7 <b>JACKY</b> [1] - 1:9 <b>Jeff</b> [7] - 2:7, 3:7, 6:17, 6:18, 34:6, 34:14, 36:16 <b>JEFF</b> [2] - 34:8, 34:15 <b>job</b> [2] - 21:19, 38:2 <b>jobs</b> [2] - 12:19, 12:24 <b>John</b> [3] - 4:16, 24:8, 40:13 <b>JOHN</b> [87] - 1:9, 4:1, 4:5, 5:15, 5:18, 5:21, 6:22, 7:10, 11:6, 11:10, 11:15, 11:20, 13:2, 13:6, 13:12, 13:19, 13:22, 14:2, 14:6, 14:13, 14:16, 18:21, 18:25, 19:7, 19:10, 19:15, 19:19, 19:24, 20:3, 20:9, 23:11, 23:14, 23:18, 24:2, 24:6, 24:10, 24:14, 24:16, 25:20, 26:5, 26:8, 26:14, 26:19, 26:23, 27:1, 27:3, 31:16, 31:21, 31:24, 32:1, 32:5, 32:11, 32:16, 32:20, 32:23, 33:1, 33:25, 34:3, 34:6, 34:11, 34:16, 34:21, 34:25, 35:3, 35:8, 36:17, 36:20, 37:1, 37:6, 37:10, 39:8, 39:11, 39:17, 39:22, 40:2, 40:7, 40:11, 40:14,	<b>Kara</b> [1] - 6:14 <b>KARA</b> [1] - 2:3 <b>KARI</b> [2] - 36:23, 37:4 <b>Kari</b> [4] - 3:7, 36:21, 37:3, 37:13 <b>KEATON</b> [2] - 26:11, 26:17 <b>Keaton</b> [4] - 3:6, 26:9, 26:16, 27:6 <b>keep</b> [1] - 10:9 <b>kherrnstein @bricker</b> .com [1] - 2:6 <b>kids</b> [2] - 42:2, 42:4 <b>kind</b> [2] - 25:6, 42:19 <b>kinds</b> [1] - 46:4 <b>KIP</b> [1] - 11:8 <b>Kip</b> [3] - 3:4, 10:24, 11:8 <b>KIPTON</b> [1] - 11:3	<b>lack</b> [2] - 27:17, 29:5 <b>Lake</b> [1] - 43:25 <b>land</b> [16] - 16:5, 16:7, 16:15, 16:21, 16:24, 16:25, 18:12, 19:6, 20:14, 20:17, 22:3, 27:13, 31:7, 33:23, 42:16 <b>landowner</b> [12] - 15:6, 16:3, 16:14, 16:18, 17:5, 17:11, 18:9, 19:5, 20:16, 37:13, 38:7, 38:17 <b>landowners</b> [9] - 15:22, 17:9, 17:17, 20:13, 21:14, 22:4, 38:1, 38:12, 42:12 <b>landowners ' [1] - 38:15 <b>landscape</b> [2] - 17:7, 22:14 <b>large</b> [1] - 22:2 <b>largest</b> [1] - 30:8 <b>last</b> [9] - 18:14, 28:2, 39:23, 39:24, 39:25, 40:24, 41:2, 41:18, 42:10 <b>LAW</b> [1] - 1:8 <b>law</b> [1] - 20:5 <b>Law</b> [2] - 4:17, 50:8 <b>lawn</b> [1] - 20:23 <b>lawyers</b> [1] - 24:20 <b>lays</b> [1] - 30:3 <b>Lead</b> [1] - 6:19 <b>leads</b> [1] - 29:19 <b>lease</b> [2] - 28:10, 42:15 <b>leases</b> [1] - 42:16 <b>leasing</b> [1] - 31:7 <b>leave</b> [1] - 10:4 <b>left</b> [1] - 10:12 <b>legal</b> [6] - 7:6, 7:8, 15:16, 15:23, 18:12, 33:23 <b>Legal</b> [1] - 4:18 <b>legally</b> [1] - 16:20 <b>length</b> [1] - 10:10 <b>lengthy</b> [1] - 35:21 <b>less</b> [2] - 21:7, 30:16 <b>letter</b> [2] - 20:11, 20:15 <b>life</b> [2] - 21:18, 44:22 <b>lifelong</b> [1] - 14:25</b>

<p><b>likely</b> [2] - 6:1, 12:5</p> <p><b>likewise</b> [1] - 22:10</p> <p><b>Lima</b> [1] - 29:12</p> <p><b>limit</b> [2] - 29:7, 29:15</p> <p><b>limits</b> [1] - 10:15</p> <p><b>Lincolnview</b> [10] - 17:20, 18:1, 22:23, 35:11, 35:16, 36:3, 37:14, 37:16, 42:3, 47:9</p> <p><b>lincolnview</b> [1] - 35:2</p> <p><b>list</b> [10] - 10:24, 13:9, 13:13, 17:22, 19:1, 23:15, 26:9, 36:21, 39:13, 39:23</p> <p><b>listed</b> [1] - 13:13</p> <p><b>literally</b> [1] - 44:5</p> <p><b>live</b> [9] - 14:10, 24:15, 31:8, 32:18, 32:20, 36:14, 37:4, 37:6, 37:8</p> <p><b>lived</b> [3] - 15:11, 41:25, 47:8</p> <p><b>lives</b> [2] - 31:12, 45:19</p> <p><b>living</b> [4] - 15:15, 15:23, 18:13, 31:3</p> <p><b>LLC</b> [5] - 1:4, 2:2, 4:13, 6:12, 7:13</p> <p><b>Local</b> [11] - 7:3, 11:23, 12:5, 12:11, 12:25, 17:21, 18:1, 35:2, 35:11, 35:16, 36:3</p> <p><b>LOCAL</b> [1] - 1:1</p> <p><b>local</b> [6] - 7:25, 29:7, 29:16, 35:13, 37:14, 38:7</p> <p><b>located</b> [2] - 37:9, 45:23</p> <p><b>locations</b> [1] - 28:23</p> <p><b>longevity</b> [1] - 27:24</p> <p><b>look</b> [7] - 22:14, 22:17, 28:22, 30:4, 31:12, 38:5, 46:11</p> <p><b>looked</b> [1] - 41:17</p> <p><b>looking</b> [3] - 30:5, 31:13, 33:14</p> <p><b>losing</b> [1] - 25:4</p> <p><b>loss</b> [1] - 22:3</p> <p><b>love</b> [1] - 44:15</p> <p><b>loved</b> [2] - 38:23, 45:2</p> <p><b>lower</b> [1] - 29:18</p>	<p>29:9, 41:18</p> <p><b>March</b> [1] - 20:12</p> <p><b>massive</b> [1] - 30:21</p> <p><b>mater</b> [1] - 17:21</p> <p><b>Matter</b> [1] - 4:12</p> <p><b>matter</b> [3] - 21:11, 41:12, 45:20</p> <p><b>MATTER</b> [1] - 1:2</p> <p><b>matters</b> [1] - 45:21</p> <p><b>Maumee</b> [1] - 44:2</p> <p><b>Maunz</b> [3] - 3:8, 39:20, 40:10</p> <p><b>MAUNZ</b> [12] - 39:16, 39:19, 39:24, 40:4, 40:9, 40:13, 40:16, 40:23, 46:18, 46:21, 46:25, 47:3</p> <p><b>Mauroz</b> [1] - 39:14</p> <p><b>mean</b> [5] - 25:5, 41:16, 43:10, 44:6, 45:20</p> <p><b>measured</b> [1] - 29:3</p> <p><b>meeting</b> [5] - 14:20, 40:1, 40:24, 41:2, 42:10</p> <p><b>meetings</b> [2] - 22:4, 44:25</p> <p><b>megawatts</b> [1] - 7:15</p> <p><b>melting</b> [2] - 43:9, 44:5</p> <p><b>member</b> [2] - 5:1, 5:4</p> <p><b>members</b> [4] - 5:9, 5:23, 12:5, 25:24</p> <p><b>membership</b> [1] - 12:13</p> <p><b>men</b> [1] - 12:24</p> <p><b>mention</b> [1] - 30:19</p> <p><b>Merit</b> [1] - 50:3</p> <p><b>Michigan</b> [1] - 21:21</p> <p><b>microphone</b> [1] - 11:1</p> <p><b>middle</b> [4] - 24:12, 29:23, 31:3, 40:18</p> <p><b>Middle</b> [1] - 34:23</p> <p><b>MIDWEST</b> [1] - 1:22</p> <p><b>might</b> [3] - 16:8, 23:4, 39:23</p> <p><b>mile</b> [1] - 21:8</p> <p><b>miles</b> [5] - 21:3, 21:4, 29:2, 41:8</p> <p><b>mind</b> [2] - 18:17, 19:8</p> <p><b>mine</b> [1] - 14:9</p> <p><b>minutes</b> [2] - 10:11, 10:14</p> <p><b>mission</b> [2] - 27:16, 28:7</p> <p><b>mom</b> [9] - 13:18, 14:19, 15:1, 16:3, 18:11, 18:17, 42:16, 45:1</p> <p><b>mom's</b> [3] - 15:5, 17:20, 18:20</p>	<p><b>Mone</b> [1] - 21:6</p> <p><b>money</b> [11] - 12:21, 25:3, 25:4, 40:25, 41:24, 42:7, 42:8, 42:21, 43:6, 43:7</p> <p><b>months</b> [1] - 45:8</p> <p><b>most</b> [3] - 12:5, 25:13, 38:6</p> <p><b>mostly</b> [1] - 44:9</p> <p><b>mother</b> [3] - 14:20, 20:5, 47:8</p> <p><b>mother-in-law</b> [1] - 20:5</p> <p><b>moved</b> [2] - 20:25, 21:9</p> <p><b>MR</b> [53] - 6:18, 7:1, 11:8, 11:12, 11:17, 11:22, 13:11, 19:4, 19:9, 19:17, 19:22, 20:1, 20:4, 20:11, 23:17, 23:25, 24:4, 24:8, 24:12, 24:15, 24:18, 26:4, 26:16, 26:21, 26:25, 27:2, 27:5, 31:20, 31:23, 31:25, 32:14, 32:18, 32:22, 32:24, 33:3, 34:5, 34:14, 34:18, 34:23, 35:2, 35:5, 35:10, 39:16, 39:19, 39:24, 40:9, 40:13, 40:16, 40:23, 46:18, 46:21, 46:25, 47:3</p> <p><b>MS</b> [20] - 2:3, 6:13, 13:5, 13:17, 13:20, 14:4, 14:9, 14:15, 14:18, 18:24, 23:13, 26:7, 32:4, 34:2, 36:19, 37:3, 37:8, 37:12, 39:10, 47:18</p> <p><b>MURLEN</b> [2] - 19:12, 19:18</p> <p><b>Murlen</b> [2] - 3:5, 19:17</p> <p><b>muskrats</b> [1] - 43:22</p>	<p><b>NEED</b> [1] - 1:6</p> <p><b>Need</b> [1] - 4:15</p> <p><b>need</b> [2] - 6:6, 47:14</p> <p><b>needed</b> [1] - 38:21</p> <p><b>needs</b> [4] - 30:16, 36:10, 42:8</p> <p><b>neighbor</b> [3] - 15:14, 20:22, 38:8</p> <p><b>neighbors</b> [5] - 33:20, 37:24, 38:14, 38:15, 39:4</p> <p><b>never</b> [2] - 45:2</p> <p><b>new</b> [6] - 4:20, 20:15, 36:10, 37:20, 42:3</p> <p><b>Next</b> [1] - 39:13</p> <p><b>next</b> [11] - 9:23, 13:9, 13:12, 15:11, 19:1, 23:15, 26:9, 29:19, 32:6, 34:6, 36:21</p> <p><b>nice</b> [3] - 21:1, 42:3, 45:18</p> <p><b>nobody</b> [3] - 42:24, 43:2, 45:19</p> <p><b>nobody's</b> [2] - 40:25, 43:5</p> <p><b>noise</b> [2] - 21:17, 45:12</p> <p><b>none</b> [1] - 47:25</p> <p><b>north</b> [1] - 21:5</p> <p><b>Northern</b> [1] - 21:21</p> <p><b>northwest</b> [1] - 29:1</p> <p><b>note</b> [1] - 20:5</p> <p><b>notes</b> [2] - 7:7, 9:20</p> <p><b>nothing</b> [1] - 18:14</p> <p><b>November</b> [1] - 7:16</p> <p><b>nuclear</b> [1] - 33:8</p> <p><b>Number</b> [1] - 4:11</p> <p><b>number</b> [3] - 16:5, 17:15, 35:6</p> <p><b>numerous</b> [1] - 12:13</p> <p><b>Nussbaum</b> [1] - 13:10</p> <p><b>NUSSBAUM</b> [1] - 13:11</p>	<p>2:5, 2:8, 4:9, 6:15, 7:4, 11:13, 12:21, 12:23, 14:11, 19:23, 21:22, 24:9, 25:14, 30:6, 34:24, 35:12, 37:5, 47:11</p> <p><b>old</b> [1] - 42:14</p> <p><b>older</b> [2] - 42:13, 42:20</p> <p><b>ON</b> [1] - 2:2</p> <p><b>once</b> [7] - 9:5, 10:2, 15:14, 15:21, 27:24, 28:8, 33:9</p> <p><b>one</b> [17] - 4:24, 5:2, 8:8, 18:7, 18:10, 28:12, 30:7, 31:17, 33:3, 35:7, 38:23, 39:24, 41:18, 42:5, 42:9, 48:16, 48:18</p> <p><b>One</b> [1] - 17:13</p> <p><b>ones</b> [3] - 42:5, 43:13, 46:4</p> <p><b>open</b> [1] - 37:19</p> <p><b>operate</b> [1] - 12:2</p> <p><b>Operating</b> [1] - 11:23</p> <p><b>operating</b> [1] - 12:1</p> <p><b>operation</b> [1] - 41:8</p> <p><b>opportunities</b> [6] - 4:20, 12:14, 37:21, 38:2, 38:10, 38:13</p> <p><b>opportunity</b> [6] - 8:5, 10:8, 16:1, 30:24, 36:2, 37:18</p> <p><b>oppose</b> [3] - 22:9, 27:14, 48:20</p> <p><b>opposition</b> [2] - 22:7, 48:13</p> <p><b>OPSB</b> [1] - 6:3</p> <p><b>order</b> [1] - 18:13</p> <p><b>Osting</b> [5] - 2:10, 5:8, 5:10, 5:12, 48:5</p> <p><b>OSTING</b> [1] - 5:17</p> <p><b>outcomes</b> [1] - 17:22</p> <p><b>outside</b> [2] - 15:13, 37:25</p> <p><b>overlooked</b> [1] - 33:4</p> <p><b>overpopulated</b> [1] - 41:10</p> <p><b>own</b> [6] - 16:15, 16:24, 20:1, 32:22, 33:11, 37:22</p> <p><b>owner</b> [2] - 37:15, 38:7</p> <p><b>owners</b> [1] - 29:17</p> <p><b>owns</b> [1] - 20:5</p>
<p><b>M</b></p>		<p><b>N</b></p>	<p><b>O</b></p>	
<p><b>M-A-U-N-Z</b> [1] - 40:10</p> <p><b>Maddox</b> [1] - 28:24</p> <p><b>Madison</b> [1] - 32:18</p> <p><b>maintain</b> [1] - 36:8</p> <p><b>MAN</b> [1] - 48:11</p> <p><b>map</b> [4] - 27:19, 28:22,</p>		<p><b>name</b> [24] - 4:16, 7:2, 9:10, 9:22, 11:7, 14:3, 19:16, 19:17, 20:4, 24:3, 26:15, 26:16, 27:5, 32:12, 32:14, 34:12, 34:14, 37:2, 37:3, 37:12, 39:23, 40:8, 40:9, 48:22</p> <p><b>named</b> [1] - 39:14</p> <p><b>near</b> [2] - 22:25, 28:13</p> <p><b>Neate</b> [1] - 42:17</p> <p><b>necessarily</b> [1] - 7:20</p>	<p><b>o'clock</b> [1] - 4:6</p> <p><b>O'Neill</b> [3] - 1:22, 50:3, 50:12</p> <p><b>oath</b> [1] - 9:7</p> <p><b>object</b> [1] - 23:7</p> <p><b>objective</b> [1] - 35:24</p> <p><b>observe</b> [2] - 7:7, 10:3</p> <p><b>OF</b> [3] - 1:2, 1:4, 2:2</p> <p><b>offerings</b> [1] - 36:9</p> <p><b>offices</b> [1] - 8:10</p> <p><b>official</b> [1] - 9:17</p> <p><b>officials</b> [1] - 22:23</p> <p><b>often</b> [1] - 15:12</p> <p><b>Ohio</b> [20] - 1:14, 1:23,</p>	<p>2:5, 2:8, 4:9, 6:15, 7:4, 11:13, 12:21, 12:23, 14:11, 19:23, 21:22, 24:9, 25:14, 30:6, 34:24, 35:12, 37:5, 47:11</p> <p><b>old</b> [1] - 42:14</p> <p><b>older</b> [2] - 42:13, 42:20</p> <p><b>ON</b> [1] - 2:2</p> <p><b>once</b> [7] - 9:5, 10:2, 15:14, 15:21, 27:24, 28:8, 33:9</p> <p><b>one</b> [17] - 4:24, 5:2, 8:8, 18:7, 18:10, 28:12, 30:7, 31:17, 33:3, 35:7, 38:23, 39:24, 41:18, 42:5, 42:9, 48:16, 48:18</p> <p><b>One</b> [1] - 17:13</p> <p><b>ones</b> [3] - 42:5, 43:13, 46:4</p> <p><b>open</b> [1] - 37:19</p> <p><b>operate</b> [1] - 12:2</p> <p><b>Operating</b> [1] - 11:23</p> <p><b>operating</b> [1] - 12:1</p> <p><b>operation</b> [1] - 41:8</p> <p><b>opportunities</b> [6] - 4:20, 12:14, 37:21, 38:2, 38:10, 38:13</p> <p><b>opportunity</b> [6] - 8:5, 10:8, 16:1, 30:24, 36:2, 37:18</p> <p><b>oppose</b> [3] - 22:9, 27:14, 48:20</p> <p><b>opposition</b> [2] - 22:7, 48:13</p> <p><b>OPSB</b> [1] - 6:3</p> <p><b>order</b> [1] - 18:13</p> <p><b>Osting</b> [5] - 2:10, 5:8, 5:10, 5:12, 48:5</p> <p><b>OSTING</b> [1] - 5:17</p> <p><b>outcomes</b> [1] - 17:22</p> <p><b>outside</b> [2] - 15:13, 37:25</p> <p><b>overlooked</b> [1] - 33:4</p> <p><b>overpopulated</b> [1] - 41:10</p> <p><b>own</b> [6] - 16:15, 16:24, 20:1, 32:22, 33:11, 37:22</p> <p><b>owner</b> [2] - 37:15, 38:7</p> <p><b>owners</b> [1] - 29:17</p> <p><b>owns</b> [1] - 20:5</p>
				<p><b>P</b></p>
				<p><b>p.m</b> [1] - 1:12</p> <p><b>package</b> [1] - 18:7</p>

<p><b>PAGE</b> [1] - 3:2  <b>pages</b> [1] - 50:5  <b>paid</b> [2] - 15:3, 42:1  <b>pain</b> [1] - 42:19  <b>panel</b> [12] - 14:21, 16:2, 17:14, 17:23, 27:17, 28:7, 28:10, 28:14, 28:18, 28:22, 29:11, 29:14  <b>panels</b> [15] - 18:15, 20:20, 21:16, 21:20, 25:13, 27:11, 27:25, 29:16, 30:2, 30:3, 30:10, 30:25, 39:4, 45:18, 46:7  <b>paper</b> [1] - 30:12  <b>parent</b> [2] - 38:7, 38:20  <b>parents</b> [1] - 15:3  <b>part</b> [2] - 7:5, 9:16  <b>participants</b> [1] - 30:14  <b>participate</b> [2] - 4:22  <b>participation</b> [2] - 10:6, 48:1  <b>parties</b> [6] - 6:11, 6:23, 8:1, 8:12, 9:13, 35:20  <b>pass</b> [2] - 9:23, 13:11  <b>passage</b> [1] - 4:19  <b>passed</b> [2] - 6:1, 14:25  <b>passionately</b> [1] - 27:14  <b>past</b> [2] - 17:12, 36:6  <b>paying</b> [3] - 12:14, 18:10, 42:6  <b>payments</b> [1] - 27:13  <b>Payne</b> [1] - 19:22  <b>people</b> [9] - 13:13, 15:18, 28:14, 33:15, 36:13, 42:13, 42:20, 44:25, 46:3  <b>perform</b> [1] - 12:10  <b>period</b> [1] - 35:21  <b>permanence</b> [1] - 27:16  <b>permitted</b> [2] - 9:4, 9:14  <b>person</b> [3] - 9:3, 13:9, 13:13  <b>perspective</b> [1] - 36:12  <b>perspectives</b> [1] - 27:8  <b>petition</b> [1] - 30:5  <b>place</b> [1] - 4:11  <b>PLACE</b> [1] - 1:13  <b>places</b> [2] - 25:11, 46:1  <b>placing</b> [1] - 29:23</p>	<p><b>plan</b> [1] - 8:16  <b>planning</b> [1] - 15:9  <b>Plant</b> [1] - 21:7  <b>plant</b> [2] - 20:19, 20:22  <b>player</b> [1] - 35:23  <b>plots</b> [1] - 16:7  <b>Point</b> [1] - 34:23  <b>point</b> [1] - 29:19  <b>Policy</b> [1] - 7:4  <b>pond</b> [1] - 45:9  <b>popping</b> [1] - 21:20  <b>population</b> [1] - 41:12  <b>position</b> [1] - 31:9  <b>possible</b> [2] - 22:16, 38:8  <b>potential</b> [1] - 36:2  <b>power</b> [1] - 18:19  <b>Power</b> [5] - 4:9, 12:23, 25:25, 30:7, 35:12  <b>powered</b> [1] - 7:14  <b>practical</b> [1] - 27:25  <b>prefer</b> [1] - 9:24  <b>prepared</b> [1] - 8:20  <b>present</b> [5] - 6:23, 9:6, 14:19, 36:16, 47:21  <b>preserve</b> [2] - 17:7, 22:14  <b>pretty</b> [2] - 40:18, 43:18  <b>previous</b> [1] - 17:20  <b>previously</b> [1] - 37:9  <b>primary</b> [2] - 18:8, 19:5  <b>prime</b> [1] - 25:9  <b>proceed</b> [9] - 11:21, 14:17, 20:10, 24:17, 27:4, 33:2, 35:9, 37:11, 40:22  <b>proceedings</b> [2] - 49:1, 50:6  <b>process</b> [5] - 6:5, 8:8, 35:15, 35:23, 39:3  <b>productive</b> [1] - 30:20  <b>Professional</b> [1] - 1:25  <b>programming</b> [1] - 36:10  <b>programs</b> [1] - 12:16  <b>progress</b> [2] - 21:10, 22:10  <b>project</b> [45] - 5:9, 8:1, 8:6, 8:14, 9:3, 9:5, 9:12, 11:16, 11:19, 11:25, 12:10, 12:19, 12:22, 13:1, 14:14, 16:3, 17:14, 17:17, 17:23, 18:6, 19:25, 22:3, 22:9, 22:25, 23:2, 23:8, 23:10,</p>	<p>24:11, 26:24, 27:16, 27:20, 27:24, 29:6, 32:21, 32:24, 35:4, 35:17, 36:1, 37:7, 40:15, 40:18, 40:20, 41:17, 48:13, 48:21  <b>projects</b> [4] - 4:23, 21:23, 28:1, 43:16  <b>property</b> [22] - 15:2, 15:8, 15:16, 15:23, 20:1, 20:6, 20:24, 25:2, 25:3, 25:19, 27:21, 28:11, 29:7, 29:16, 29:18, 29:20, 30:9, 31:5, 32:22, 33:12, 44:14, 44:20  <b>proposal</b> [1] - 35:14  <b>proposed</b> [8] - 8:1, 8:6, 9:3, 9:5, 9:11, 28:22, 35:17, 36:1  <b>prospect</b> [1] - 30:1  <b>prosper</b> [1] - 36:14  <b>provide</b> [14] - 8:13, 8:22, 9:11, 9:15, 10:12, 11:10, 14:7, 18:3, 19:20, 24:7, 26:20, 32:16, 34:17, 40:11  <b>provided</b> [1] - 38:19  <b>provides</b> [1] - 4:20  <b>providing</b> [1] - 12:12  <b>PUBLIC</b> [2] - 1:1, 1:6  <b>public</b> [5] - 4:10, 7:23, 8:3, 8:7, 48:4  <b>Public</b> [2] - 4:14, 6:1  <b>PUCO</b> [1] - 6:3  <b>pull</b> [1] - 43:4  <b>purpose</b> [2] - 7:13, 8:11  <b>purposes</b> [3] - 7:22, 18:18, 27:25  <b>pushed</b> [1] - 37:20  <b>put</b> [7] - 25:8, 27:11, 27:25, 42:11, 42:23, 44:24, 45:23  <b>putting</b> [1] - 25:10</p>	<p><b>R</b>  <b>racks</b> [1] - 44:9  <b>Rai</b> [1] - 30:13  <b>raise</b> [10] - 11:2, 13:22, 19:11, 22:12, 23:19, 26:10, 32:7, 34:7, 36:22, 40:2  <b>ramifications</b> [1] - 16:23  <b>rarely</b> [1] - 22:11  <b>rather</b> [1] - 8:4  <b>reached</b> [1] - 22:21  <b>read</b> [2] - 9:22, 43:11  <b>reading</b> [1] - 4:6  <b>real</b> [1] - 18:10  <b>really</b> [4] - 25:17, 41:4, 45:20, 47:11  <b>Realtor</b> [1] - 24:24  <b>reason</b> [2] - 10:9, 23:1  <b>reasonable</b> [1] - 10:10  <b>reasons</b> [3] - 16:5, 16:13, 27:15  <b>recap</b> [1] - 20:14  <b>receive</b> [1] - 7:23  <b>recently</b> [1] - 29:9  <b>recommendation</b> [1] - 7:19  <b>recommending</b> [1] - 17:10  <b>record</b> [16] - 7:5, 8:19, 9:10, 9:17, 11:7, 14:3, 14:21, 19:8, 19:16, 24:3, 26:15, 32:13, 34:13, 37:2, 40:8, 48:8  <b>reference</b> [2] - 8:23, 31:17  <b>referendum</b> [1] - 30:25  <b>referendum /vote</b> [1] - 27:18  <b>reflect</b> [2] - 7:20, 8:18  <b>regarding</b> [5] - 7:24, 8:13, 14:21, 35:14, 36:1  <b>Registered</b> [2] - 1:25, 50:3  <b>REINKEMEYER</b> [1] - 6:18  <b>Reinkemeyer</b> [2] - 2:7, 6:18  <b>remember</b> [1] - 43:15  <b>removed</b> [1] - 22:2  <b>Renewables</b> [4] - 2:7, 6:21, 12:9, 35:19  <b>rent</b> [2] - 19:5, 31:10  <b>report</b> [3] - 7:8, 7:17, 7:18  <b>Reporter</b> [1] - 50:4</p>	<p><b>reporter</b> [3] - 8:16, 8:18, 8:22  <b>Reporters</b> [1] - 1:25  <b>REPORTING</b> [1] - 1:23  <b>represent</b> [1] - 33:11  <b>representative</b> [1] - 5:4  <b>representatives</b> [1] - 25:25  <b>representing</b> [1] - 34:18  <b>represents</b> [1] - 29:5  <b>reps</b> [1] - 17:3  <b>reptile</b> [1] - 43:17  <b>reptiles</b> [5] - 43:19, 43:20, 43:22, 44:4, 44:7  <b>requests</b> [1] - 39:3  <b>research</b> [2] - 30:12, 43:11  <b>reside</b> [11] - 11:16, 11:17, 14:14, 19:24, 24:11, 24:14, 26:23, 27:1, 27:2, 40:14, 40:16  <b>residents</b> [5] - 15:7, 16:11, 22:24, 30:6, 30:10  <b>residents '</b> [1] - 30:8  <b>respectfully</b> [1] - 16:22  <b>responded</b> [1] - 17:5  <b>response</b> [1] - 47:23  <b>responsibility</b> [1] - 33:13  <b>rest</b> [2] - 25:16, 29:14  <b>result</b> [1] - 12:21  <b>revenue</b> [1] - 37:19  <b>reviewed</b> [1] - 9:18  <b>Reynolds</b> [1] - 11:12  <b>rid</b> [1] - 45:1  <b>rights</b> [5] - 16:19, 33:9, 38:1, 38:15  <b>River</b> [1] - 44:2  <b>RMR</b> [2] - 1:22, 50:12  <b>road</b> [1] - 40:16  <b>Road</b> [8] - 1:23, 11:13, 19:22, 24:8, 28:25, 34:23, 37:5, 40:13  <b>roads</b> [1] - 12:4  <b>Robert</b> [1] - 21:6  <b>Rockford</b> [1] - 1:23  <b>Ross</b> [1] - 1:23  <b>Route</b> [1] - 26:21  <b>run</b> [2] - 10:18, 41:14  <b>rushed</b> [1] - 28:4  <b>Ruth</b> [1] - 13:15</p>
		<p><b>Q</b>  <b>questions</b> [23] - 6:5, 6:8, 9:14, 10:1, 13:3, 13:5, 13:7, 18:22, 18:24, 23:12, 23:13, 25:22, 26:2, 26:6, 26:7, 32:2, 34:1, 34:2, 36:18, 36:19, 39:9, 39:10, 47:18  <b>quick</b> [3] - 31:17, 48:16, 48:18  <b>quiet</b> [1] - 21:1</p>		

# S

**S-I-E-S-E-L** [1] - 11:9  
**S-N-Y-D-E-R** [1] - 34:15  
**sacrifice** [1] - 15:4  
**sake** [1] - 30:19  
**satellite** [1] - 29:4  
**scale** [1] - 30:21  
**scheduled** [2] - 4:10, 8:9  
**Schererville** [1] - 6:20  
**school** [5] - 34:21, 34:22, 34:25, 35:6, 42:3  
**School** [5] - 17:21, 34:19, 35:4, 47:9  
**schooling** [1] - 42:9  
**schools** [2] - 38:11, 42:4  
**Schools** [4] - 18:1, 35:11, 35:16, 36:3  
**scientists** [1] - 45:16  
**seconds** [2] - 10:12, 46:24  
**secure** [2] - 12:12, 33:10  
**security** [2] - 33:5, 33:7  
**see** [9] - 21:20, 24:25, 25:15, 27:23, 42:20, 43:2, 46:8, 46:9  
**seeing** [3] - 23:2, 47:12, 47:24  
**sees** [1] - 18:13  
**selfish** [1] - 16:12  
**Senate** [1] - 4:19  
**sense** [1] - 29:10  
**sent** [1] - 20:11  
**separately** [1] - 13:16  
**serve** [2] - 4:25, 5:3  
**SERVICE** [1] - 1:23  
**session** [2] - 8:4, 25:21  
**set** [1] - 10:14  
**setbacks** [3] - 17:6, 17:10, 22:15  
**seven** [2] - 46:8, 46:12  
**seven-foot** [2] - 46:8, 46:12  
**sheet** [2] - 9:2, 9:22  
**sheets** [3] - 48:12, 48:19, 48:21  
**shines** [1] - 25:13  
**shirt** [1] - 6:4  
**shooting** [1] - 45:5  
**side** [3] - 42:17, 44:22, 44:23  
**sides** [3] - 42:11,

42:12, 42:23  
**Siesel** [2] - 10:24, 11:8  
**SIESEL** [5] - 11:3, 11:8, 11:12, 11:17, 11:22  
**Siesel** ..... [1] - 3:4  
**sign** [8] - 9:2, 9:22, 10:11, 28:10, 48:12, 48:18, 48:21, 48:22  
**sign-in** [2] - 9:2, 9:22  
**sign-up** [2] - 48:18, 48:21  
**signatory** [1] - 12:11  
**signed** [9] - 9:4, 10:7, 12:9, 19:2, 30:5, 39:14, 39:17, 39:19, 47:20  
**sit** [1] - 39:2  
**site** [1] - 23:1  
**Siting** [6] - 4:9, 12:23, 20:12, 25:25, 30:7, 35:13  
**siting** [1] - 4:23  
**situation** [1] - 33:10  
**small** [1] - 37:17  
**smell** [2] - 21:12, 21:17  
**Snyder** [5] - 3:7, 34:7, 34:14, 34:15, 36:16  
**SNYDER** [7] - 34:8, 34:14, 34:18, 34:23, 35:2, 35:5, 35:10  
**soften** [1] - 39:3  
**SOLAR** [2] - 1:3, 2:2  
**Solar** [6] - 4:13, 6:12, 7:12, 11:25, 12:18, 12:25  
**solar** [32] - 4:23, 7:13, 12:17, 14:21, 16:2, 17:14, 17:23, 18:15, 20:20, 21:16, 21:20, 27:10, 27:15, 28:8, 28:16, 28:18, 29:9, 29:17, 30:2, 30:15, 31:7, 31:9, 33:8, 35:14, 38:5, 38:8, 39:4, 43:4, 45:14, 45:18, 46:7, 47:14  
**sold** [1] - 16:7  
**someone** [1] - 20:21  
**sometimes** [1] - 21:12  
**son** [1] - 47:7  
**sound** [1] - 18:17  
**south** [1] - 29:12  
**South** [5] - 1:13, 2:4, 6:14, 11:12, 14:10  
**southeast** [1] - 29:2  
**Southern** [1] - 21:21  
**soybeans** [2] - 20:19,

22:17  
**speaking** [5] - 13:17, 14:18, 20:7, 38:14, 39:2  
**spell** [9] - 11:7, 14:3, 19:16, 24:3, 26:15, 32:12, 34:12, 37:2, 40:8  
**sprawl** [2] - 27:20, 29:15  
**sprawling** [2] - 28:18, 29:5  
**squeaking** [2] - 45:6, 45:7  
**ST** [88] - 1:9, 4:1, 4:5, 5:15, 5:18, 5:21, 6:22, 7:10, 11:6, 11:10, 11:15, 11:20, 13:2, 13:6, 13:12, 13:19, 13:22, 14:2, 14:6, 14:13, 14:16, 18:21, 18:25, 19:7, 19:10, 19:15, 19:19, 19:24, 20:3, 20:9, 23:11, 23:14, 23:18, 23:23, 24:2, 24:6, 24:10, 24:14, 24:16, 25:20, 26:5, 26:8, 26:14, 26:19, 26:23, 27:1, 27:3, 31:16, 31:21, 31:24, 32:1, 32:5, 32:11, 32:16, 32:20, 32:23, 33:1, 33:25, 34:3, 34:6, 34:11, 34:16, 34:21, 34:25, 35:3, 35:8, 36:17, 36:20, 37:1, 37:6, 37:10, 39:8, 39:11, 39:17, 39:22, 40:2, 40:7, 40:11, 40:14, 40:21, 46:17, 46:19, 46:23, 47:1, 47:16, 47:19, 47:24, 48:14  
**St** [2] - 4:16, 50:7  
**staff** [5] - 5:23, 7:17, 7:19, 8:12, 9:25  
**stakeholders** [1] - 18:5  
**stall** [1] - 21:24  
**stance** [1] - 39:3  
**stand** [2] - 5:13, 27:13  
**stands** [1] - 38:10  
**started** [3] - 4:8, 21:3, 43:16  
**state** [13] - 9:9, 11:7, 14:3, 19:16, 23:24, 24:2, 26:15, 32:12, 34:12, 37:2, 40:7  
**statement** [3] - 8:21,

9:15, 10:9  
**statements** [1] - 47:2  
**stating** [1] - 19:8  
**stench** [1] - 15:13  
**step** [1] - 38:22  
**stewards** [1] - 36:7  
**still** [1] - 18:17  
**Street** [4] - 1:13, 2:4, 6:15, 14:10  
**struggle** [1] - 37:22  
**stuck** [1] - 24:23  
**students** [1] - 36:10  
**study** [1] - 31:18  
**stuff** [1] - 41:4  
**subject** [1] - 7:11  
**submit** [1] - 31:22  
**submitted** [2] - 6:7, 48:7  
**substation** [1] - 28:25  
**sun** [2] - 25:13, 25:15  
**sunflowers** [1] - 20:19  
**support** [6] - 11:24, 12:24, 18:8, 22:15, 48:13, 48:20  
**supposed** [1] - 46:21  
**surrounded** [1] - 30:1  
**surrounding** [1] - 28:24  
**survey** [1] - 30:14  
**surveys** [1] - 25:6  
**sweep** [1] - 29:18  
**SWORN** [9] - 11:4, 13:25, 19:13, 23:21, 26:12, 32:9, 34:9, 36:24, 40:5

# T

**T-H-A-T-C-H-E-R** [1] - 32:15  
**talks** [2] - 43:8, 43:13  
**tax** [3] - 12:20, 36:4, 42:6  
**taxes** [1] - 18:10  
**team** [1] - 35:23  
**technology** [1] - 36:11  
**tenant** [1] - 17:11  
**TESTIFIED** [9] - 11:5, 14:1, 19:14, 23:22, 26:13, 32:10, 34:10, 36:25, 40:6  
**testify** [9] - 8:17, 9:4, 9:21, 10:7, 10:16, 13:16, 39:15, 47:21, 47:22  
**testifying** [1] - 10:2  
**testimony** [20] - 7:23, 8:13, 9:6, 9:15, 10:22, 11:21, 13:8, 14:17, 20:10, 23:15,

24:17, 27:4, 31:22, 33:2, 34:4, 35:9, 36:21, 37:11, 40:22, 47:17  
**Texas** [1] - 30:13  
**THATCHER** [7] - 32:8, 32:14, 32:18, 32:22, 32:24, 33:3, 34:5  
**Thatcher** [4] - 3:6, 32:7, 32:15  
**THE** [1] - 1:2  
**third** [1] - 28:20  
**Third** [2] - 2:4, 6:15  
**thoughts** [3] - 9:11, 18:16, 20:15  
**three** [3] - 46:6, 46:11  
**thrilled** [1] - 29:25  
**throughout** [1] - 35:15  
**TIME** [1] - 1:12  
**today's** [3] - 7:11, 35:13, 36:16  
**Todd** [2] - 2:9, 5:6  
**together** [2] - 13:16, 19:2  
**Toledo** [1] - 11:13  
**tomorrow** [1] - 7:8  
**tonight** [7] - 5:25, 6:9, 7:7, 9:16, 20:7, 25:20, 27:7  
**Tonight's** [2] - 8:3, 8:15  
**tonight's** [3] - 4:7, 8:7, 10:6  
**tortoise** [2] - 43:15, 43:16  
**towards** [1] - 35:23  
**Township** [21] - 5:8, 11:11, 11:14, 14:8, 14:12, 17:19, 18:2, 18:4, 19:23, 22:22, 26:22, 27:7, 27:22, 28:15, 29:21, 30:6, 30:24, 31:15, 35:7, 35:18, 37:13  
**township** [4] - 4:21, 5:1, 19:21, 38:11  
**townships** [1] - 35:6  
**tracts** [1] - 22:2  
**tradesmen** [1] - 12:6  
**transcribed** [1] - 8:16  
**transcript** [3] - 8:23, 48:7, 50:6  
**transparency** [1] - 18:18  
**travel** [1] - 21:19  
**tree** [1] - 16:9  
**trees** [1] - 30:3  
**tried** [1] - 42:11  
**true** [1] - 50:5  
**trust** [1] - 33:12

<b>Trustee</b> <sup>[5]</sup> - 2:10, 5:8, 5:12, 33:13, 48:4 <b>trustee</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 5:2, 5:10 <b>TRUSTEE</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 5:17 <b>trustees</b> <sup>[3]</sup> - 4:21, 5:2, 28:17 <b>Trustees</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 5:7, 35:18 <b>truth</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 9:9 <b>try</b> <sup>[4]</sup> - 22:1, 37:24, 37:25, 38:1 <b>trying</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 42:21 <b>Tuesday</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 1:11 <b>Tully</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 19:23 <b>turbines</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 15:20, 33:16 <b>turkeys</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 42:25 <b>turn</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 12:14 <b>turned</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 16:8 <b>turtle</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 43:15, 43:17 <b>turtles</b> <sup>[3]</sup> - 43:22, 44:8, 45:22 <b>two</b> <sup>[6]</sup> - 13:13, 19:1, 21:3, 21:4, 45:8, 48:11	24:8, 25:14, 26:22, 32:19, 34:24, 35:18, 36:12, 37:5, 42:17, 44:22, 47:5, 47:10, 48:2 <b>various</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 30:18 <b>Varun</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 30:13 <b>vehicle</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 44:19 <b>versus</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 4:13 <b>view</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 15:20, 17:8 <b>VOICE</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 4:4 <b>voiced</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 22:7 <b>vote</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 30:24	<b>windmills</b> <sup>[10]</sup> - 21:5, 41:21, 44:11, 44:12, 44:24, 45:3, 45:10, 45:18, 47:13 <b>window</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 21:6 <b>windy</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 45:8 <b>wings</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 43:9, 44:5 <b>wintertime</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 25:16 <b>wire</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 46:12 <b>wise</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 30:20 <b>wish</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 10:4 <b>witness</b> <sup>[10]</sup> - 9:23, 13:3, 18:23, 23:12, 26:6, 32:3, 32:6, 34:1, 36:18, 39:12 <b>witnesses</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 47:20 <b>Wolfrum</b> <sup>[5]</sup> - 2:9, 5:7, 5:10, 5:19, 48:5 <b>women</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 12:7, 12:24 <b>woods</b> <sup>[3]</sup> - 41:6, 41:7, 41:10 <b>words</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 39:1 <b>world</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 30:23 <b>worry</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 31:13 <b>worse</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 44:17 <b>writing</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 45:14 <b>written</b> <sup>[3]</sup> - 8:21, 9:24, 10:19
<b>U</b>	<b>W</b>	
<b>U.S</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 26:21 <b>unbearable</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 21:12 <b>unbelievable</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 20:16 <b>Union</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 11:23, 12:6 <b>University</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 30:13 <b>unparalleled</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 15:4 <b>unreasonable</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 21:24 <b>up</b> <sup>[22]</sup> - 7:14, 9:4, 10:7, 10:11, 10:14, 13:21, 19:2, 21:20, 33:9, 39:14, 39:17, 39:20, 43:4, 43:25, 44:2, 44:21, 46:19, 46:24, 47:1, 47:21, 48:18, 48:21 <b>Utility</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 7:3 <b>utilized</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 14:24 <b>utter</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 27:16, 27:23	<b>wages</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 12:14 <b>walk</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 44:16 <b>walking</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 44:18, 44:19 <b>wardens</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 41:9 <b>warning</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 46:22 <b>Washington</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 1:13, 14:10 <b>Wayne</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 20:25, 46:5 <b>ways</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 45:17 <b>wearing</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 6:3 <b>welcome</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 26:3 <b>welcoming</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 21:22 <b>Wert</b> <sup>[22]</sup> - 1:13, 1:14, 5:5, 7:15, 14:10, 14:11, 17:19, 22:22, 24:9, 25:14, 26:22, 32:19, 34:24, 35:18, 36:12, 37:5, 42:17, 44:22, 47:5, 47:10, 48:2 <b>west</b> <sup>[3]</sup> - 21:3, 40:20, 41:17 <b>WHO</b> <sup>[9]</sup> - 11:4, 13:25, 19:13, 23:21, 26:12, 32:9, 34:9, 36:24, 40:5 <b>whole</b> <sup>[3]</sup> - 25:15, 35:6, 44:22 <b>Wild</b> <sup>[11]</sup> - 4:13, 6:12, 7:12, 11:24, 12:18, 12:25, 14:21, 16:2, 27:9, 31:7, 35:14 <b>WILD</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 1:3, 2:2 <b>wildlife</b> <sup>[5]</sup> - 41:1, 44:10, 44:19, 45:20, 45:21 <b>Wilota</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 19:3 <b>win</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 17:15 <b>win-win</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 17:15 <b>wind</b> <sup>[4]</sup> - 15:20, 33:7, 33:16, 43:25 <b>windmill</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 45:7	
	<b>Y</b>	
	<b>year</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 42:2 <b>years</b> <sup>[10]</sup> - 15:1, 15:12, 18:11, 21:1, 28:2, 41:25, 42:14, 43:15, 45:25, 47:4 <b>yesterday</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 45:6 <b>Yoh</b> <sup>[2]</sup> - 24:8, 40:13	
	<b>Z</b>	
	<b>zone</b> <sup>[3]</sup> - 28:19, 30:2, 31:4 <b>zoned</b> <sup>[1]</sup> - 29:13	
<b>V</b>		
<b>value</b> <sup>[3]</sup> - 24:22, 30:15, 36:13 <b>values</b> <sup>[6]</sup> - 27:21, 28:12, 29:7, 29:18, 29:20, 30:9 <b>Van</b> <sup>[22]</sup> - 1:13, 1:14, 5:5, 7:15, 14:10, 14:11, 17:19, 22:22,		