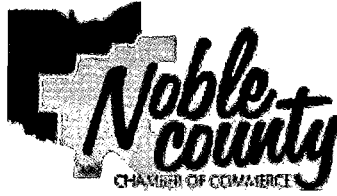


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PUCO



May 3, 2012

Chairman Todd A. Snitchler
The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: In the matter of long-term forecast reports of Ohio Power Company and Columbus Southern Power Company and related matters (PUCO Case Nos. 10-501-EL-FOR and 10-502-EL-FOR)

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

The Noble County Chamber of Commerce is in support of the Turning Point Solar project and the positive outcome it will have on Noble County as well as the regions surrounding us. This project represents a major piece of a strategic, long-term energy portfolio for Ohio. Although oil and gas are currently in the forefront, we can't overlook the role and importance that renewable energy sources including wind, hydro, bio-digesters in addition to solar will offer Ohio.

- Turning Point Solar: Part of a balanced approach to economic development:

Our region and our state is best served by a balanced economic and energy development strategy. The 49.9 M W Turning Point Solar array allows the southeastern region of Ohio to participate in a balanced approach to energy generation and to do so in a meaningful way. SE Ohio has long been dependent on "traditional" energy sources including coal, oil, and gas and the TPS project offers a wonderful chance to diversify our energy portfolio.

- Substantial environmental benefits: Green energy and marginal lands
SE Ohio geography is generally not conducive to large scale industrial developments. Our region possesses thousands of acres of marginal lands and in many counties acreage that has been mined and may or may not have been reclaimed depending on the timeframe of the original mining. The development group at Turning Point Solar and AEP deserve much praise for utilizing some 700 acres of reclaimed land in this major solar project. Indeed, as solar technology continues to improve, large stretches of Appalachian Ohio might be viewed as a utility scale solar project waiting to happen: seemingly endless acreage of marginal land, with few remaining environmental obstacles to develop that are crisscrossed by transmission lines. Lands with little economic value could pump out the power to maintain and revitalize the local, regional and state economy.
- Direct and indirect job creation:
The Noble County Chamber of Commerce is grateful for the focus that the developers of the Turning Point Solar project have place on job creation in Ohio. The construction and installation of the 49.4 M W project will result in more than 300 job/years... or to put it another way, over 100 construction jobs will be

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created in each of the three phases in which they array is to be built. In a region with unemployment rates consistently above state and national averages, these jobs are badly needed. The long term jobs at the site are limited, but equally important, as all jobs in the region are welcomed. The construction and long term jobs will also support various collateral jobs in the region in the service and hospitality industries.

- **TPS: Building out an Ohio supply chain**

TPS will also help provide jobs in other regions of Ohio. Project developers believe that close to 85 percent of the goods and services required for the construction of the project will be sourced in Ohio, beginning with the acquisition of close to 250,000 solar panels from a Napoleon, Ohio based supplier. This supplier, Isofoton North America, agreed to locate its factory in Napoleon when this order was secured. When fully operational, more than 300 permanent manufacturing jobs will be created in Napoleon plant. This will provide an additional long-term benefit to Ohio and will help to secure Ohio's place in regional and national solar infrastructure development.

- **TPS: A rural project with rural benefits**

Indeed, the rural focus of the project is worth special attention and commendation. The lion's share of technology-based economic development occurs in urban parts of the state or in the immediate vicinity of research universities. The benefits of the Turning Point Solar project will be primarily enjoyed by rural and small-town residents in economically-challenged parts of southeaster and northwestern Ohio, due to construction and install of the project in Noble County and the establishment of a panel manufacturing factory in Napoleon. This should help to have future developers consider the benefits rural locations for future projects.

- **TPS: Involvement and benefits of local partners**

Working with the Turning Point Solar project has encouraged the Noble County Commissioners to establish the first Alternative Energy Zone in the SE quadrant of Ohio. This Ohio legislation provides incentives to companies investing in solar and wind projects. The creation of such a zone in Noble County serves as a marketing tool to other renewable energy projects and to further diversify the county and regions energy footprint. With the current exception of wind projects, it is a notable list the developments occurring in oil, gas, coal, and hydro within a fifty mile radius of the project site. Such diversification is good for our region and for all Ohioans.

In addition the construction of the TPS project will have a positive impact on local schools and governmental entities due to increased tax receipts from the project. Turning Point has, and continues, to work closely with local leaders to develop a project that is a win-win situation for all involved parties.

Please Chairman Snitchler, I urge your support and consideration in this strategic TPS project in our region.

Please docket this letter in PUCO Case Nos. 10-501-EL-FOR and 10-502-EL-FOR

Sincerely,



Jill R. McCartney, IOM, CCEO-AP
Executive Director
Noble County Chamber of Commerce