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May 2, 2012

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

10-501-EL-FOR
10-502-EL-FOR

PUCO

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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:

This letter is to support the construction of the Turning Point Solar project in NW Noble County. This project represents a major piece of strategic, long-term energy portfolio for the state. Although oil and gas are currently in the limelight, we believe that it would be short sighted to overlook the role that renewable energy sources including wind, hydro, bio-digesters in addition to solar will offer to our state.

As a low wealth school district located in Appalachia Ohio it continues to be a challenge to find sources of revenue to sustain the services that are provided to the students of Noble Local. It is understood that tax abatements will be in place for this project, however, the payment in lieu of is critical to sustaining current services.

The Turning Point Solar Project offers the following positives:

Turning Point Solar: Part of a Balanced Approach to Economic Development

- 1) Our region and our state is best served by a balanced economic and energy development strategy. The 49.9 MW Turning Point Solar array allows the southeastern region of our state 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 diversity our energy portfolio.

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Substantial Environmental Benefits: Green Energy from Marginal Lands

- 2) One asset (some might say liability) that our region of the state possesses in abundance is land that has been mined, and which is sometimes reclaimed, (and, if the mining occurred long enough ago) sometimes not. The development group at Turning Point Solar and AEP deserve much praise for figuring out a way to put some 700 acres of reclaimed land, once mined by the Big Muskie (the largest dragline and shovel ever used by humankind), to a constructive use. Indeed, 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 development, that are crisscrossed by transmission lines – lines that were needed in a previous era to bring electricity to the giant shovels.

Direct and Indirect Job Creation

- 3) We are grateful for the focus that the developer's of the Turning Point Solar Project have placed on job creation in Ohio. The construction and installation of the 49.4 MW project will result in over 100 construction jobs in each of the three phases in which the 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 this 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

- 4) TPS will also help to provide jobs in other regions of the state. 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 of 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 at the Napoleon plant. This will provide an additional long-term benefit to the state and will help to secure Ohio's place in regional and national solar infrastructure development.

TPS: A Rural Project with Rural Benefits

- 5) 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 southeastern and northwestern Ohio, due to construction and installation 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 of rural locations for future projects.

TPS: Involvement and Benefit of Local Partners

- 6) Working with the Turning Point Project has encouraged the Noble County Commissioners to establish the first Alternative energy Zone in the SE quadrant of the state. This Ohio legislation provides incentives to companies investing in solar and wind energy projects. The creation of such a zone in Noble County serves as marketing tool to other renewable energy projects and to further diversity the county and regions energy footprint. With the current exception of wind projects, it is notable to 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.

Turning Point has, and continues, to work closely with local leaders to develop a project that is a win-win for all involved parties.

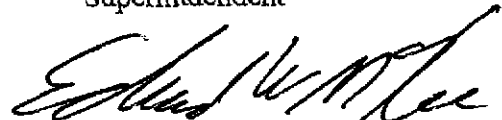
Chairman Snitchler, we appreciate your consideration in supporting this strategic TPS project in our region.

PLEASE DOCKET THIS LETTER IN PUCO CASE Nos. 10-501-EL-FOR and 10-502-EL-FOR.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Daniel T. Doyle
Superintendent



Mr. Edward McKee
Board of Education President

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