



RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

2012 JUN -8 PM 2:41

PUCO

Ohio State University Extension

Noble County  
150 Court House  
Caldwell, OH 43724

Phone (740) 732-5681  
Fax (740) 732-5434  
www.noble.osu.edu

E-mail: nobl@postoffice.ag.ohio-state.edu

May 25, 2012

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

RE: In the Matter of the Application of Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company for Authority of Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuany to Section 4928.143, ORC in the Form of Electric Security Plan (Case Nos. 11-346-EL-SSO and 11-346-EL-SSO)

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

Noble County has for many years conducted part of their overall economic efforts through an agreement between the county and Ohio State University Extension. These efforts have been in place for nearly two decades and include business retention and expansion, business development and small business loan programs.

This letter is to support the construction of the Turning Point Solar project in NW Noble County. This project represents a major piece of a strategic, long-term energy portfolio for the state. Although oil and gas are currently in the limelight, I 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. 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 diversify our energy portfolio.

Substantial Environmental Benefits: Green Energy from Marginal Lands

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business. Technician Date Processed JUN 08 2012

- 2) 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 development 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

- 3) I am grateful for the focus that the developers 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 more than 300 job-years...or to put it another way, over 100 construction jobs will be created 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 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 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.

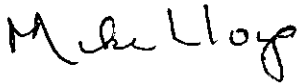
TPS: Involvement and Benefit of Local Partners

- 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 Co. 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 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.

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 for all involved parties.

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

PLEASE DOCKET THIS LETTER IN PUCO CASE Nos. 11-346-EL-SSO and 11-348-EL-SSO  
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Lloyd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Lloyd" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Lloyd, Extension Educator, Community Development  
OSU Extension, Noble County, OH