

FILE



UNIVERSITY CLEAN ENERGY  
ALLIANCE OF OHIO

October 23, 2012

Todd Snitchler, Chairman  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

PUCO

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Re: In the Matter of the Long-Term Forecast Report of Ohio Power Company and the Long-Term Forecast Report of Columbus Southern Power and Related Matters (Case Numbers: 10-0501-EL-FOR and 10-0502-EL-FOR)

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

On behalf of the University Clean Energy Alliance of Ohio (UCEAO), I am writing in support of the Turning Point Solar (TPS) project currently being considered as part of the long-term forecast filing by American Electric Power (AEP).

UCEAO's mission statement places a premium on the "environmentally responsible development and deployment of advanced and renewable energy technologies in Ohio." Utility-scale solar would add considerably to the diversity of the state's generation assets, providing a hedge against fuel price volatility as well as helping address the requirements of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) established in 2008. From an environmental perspective, it is estimated that TPS will displace significant amounts of criteria air pollutants every year. The installation will be located on 700 acres of reclaimed mine land in Southeast Ohio, putting these lands to a productive use and providing jobs and educational opportunities throughout the State. Given the nature of the technology, TPS will ensure coverage during the summer peaking season, therefore deferring the need for construction of additional generation capacity.

UCEAO's mission also includes promoting and enhancing connections among Ohio institutions of higher education and the private sector. Turning Point Solar has committed to partner with Ohio colleges and universities in support of both research and education. These partnerships would include workforce training programs in skills directly relevant to the solar industry, as well as opportunities for internships and cooperative education programs. UCEAO shares the state's goal of keeping the best and brightest of our graduates in Ohio. It has been shown that students who participate in on-site learning experiences are more likely to stay in the area, very often at the company that provided the experience.

From an economic development standpoint, TPS has the potential to stimulate growth in several areas of the state. The project site itself will create more than 300 jobs over a three-year period in Southeast Ohio,

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The University of Toledo   University of Cincinnati   University of Dayton   Wright State University   Youngstown State University

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an area much in need of employment opportunities. In addition, Isofoton, the Spanish photovoltaic manufacturer, has chosen Napoleon, in Northwest Ohio, as the location for its North American Headquarters, adding to the robust supply chain of Ohio-based companies involved in the manufacture, distribution, design, assembly, operation and maintenance of solar components and systems. As the supplier of more than a quarter of a million panels needed to complete the TPS project, Isofoton's commitment to building this facility and the hundreds of jobs it will generate, is an excellent example of the future of advanced energy manufacturing in Ohio.

You may recall that UCEAO presented its annual Partnership Recognition Award to Turning Point Solar in 2011. The Partnership Recognition Award is given to projects and organizations in Ohio that exemplify the UCEAO goal of collaboration between the public and private sectors, including the academic community, that add value to the state's economic development efforts, and promote the deployment of advanced energy technologies. UCEAO continues to believe in the importance of this project to Ohio. By moving forward with Turning Point Solar we are affirming the value of a broad array of advanced energy options.

I appreciate your consideration of the UCEAO's support for this project, and encourage the Commission to move in a positive direction for Turning Point Solar and the continued development of an advanced energy industry that will improve Ohio's environment, create jobs and capital investment, and provide new opportunities at Ohio's colleges and universities.

Please docket this letter in PUCO Case Nos. 10-0501-EL-FOR and 10-0502-EL-FOR.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip H. Taylor". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Philip H. Taylor  
Chair, UCEAO Board of Governors