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Hunter, Donielle

From: Snitchler, Todd
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 9:36 PM
To: Docketing
Subject: FW: Don't Turn Your Back on Ohio's Clean Energy Future

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From: Ohio Environmental Council On Behalf Of Robert Harmon
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 9:35:50 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Snitchler, Todd
Subject: Don't Turn Your Back on Ohio's Clean Energy Future

Feb 11, 2013

PUCO Chair Snitchler

Dear Snitchler,

I was shocked to see that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio recently rejected AEP Ohio's proposal to develop the Turning Point solar project. This decision is a step in the wrong direction for Ohio's economy and environment.

The Turning Point project was set to be built on 700 acres of reclaimed strip mine land in Noble County.

As you know, Southeast Ohio's economy has struggled to climb out of the recession. The unemployment rate in Noble county stands at 9.3%, among the highest in the state. Many of the surrounding counties are even worse off. Turning Point would be a step towards reversing that by creating over 100 local jobs during each of the three phases of the project.

Additionally, the project attracted more than \$100 million of additional investment when the Spanish solar manufacturer Isoton announced it was locating its North American manufacturing facility in Napoleon, largely because of the Turning Point project. All told, more than 600 jobs are in jeopardy because of this controversial decision.

The economic impact of this ruling is just the tip of the iceberg.

Unlike the scarred remnants of Ohio's coal dependency that litter Southeast Ohio, Turning Point would have no negative environmental impact. In fact, the project would reduce climate change-related pollution by 70,000 tons a year.

When you took office two years ago, you promised to make Ohio a more business friendly state.

You've gone out of your way to ensure businesses and the jobs they represent, stay in Ohio. I urge you to show the same passion and commitment to job creation when it comes to this project.

Ultimately, the success or failure of Turning Point will be a symbol of your vision of Ohio.

Sincerely,

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Mr. Robert Harmon
3160 Herrick Rd
Columbus, OH 43221-2622
(614) 486-3029