

October 31, 2017

RE: OPSB case 17-1152-EL-BGN Hillcrest Solar Farm

I have lived on a working farm all my 73 years. I have always liked farming until the last 2 years. My house & buildings set in the center of farmers' cropland.

A big Duke Energy substation sets next to my 129 acres. I turned down Duke's offer 3 different times to buy my land & have never regretted it.

Then Pioneer Solar Energy agents started coming in 2015 & 2016 to rent all my 129 acres. No way! I could not relinquish my prime farmland after all my years of happy memories it has given me.

However I signed a contract in 2016 because of one major factor. It was not the money nor the wearying visits.

As a child I saw honeybees, bumble bees & butterflies everywhere. The bees were bigger than they are now. In the last ten years or so, it is rare to see more than a handful.

It is alarming to see them shrinking in size. How long can they survive what is being done to our environment?

If conventional chemical farming continues, they will die off & people will follow in line. People in Brown county have irritated throats. Some complain of sore swollen throats. Others

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say their throats hurt. The public is told they have allergies. Headaches + muscle spasms are direct cause of chemicals. I am tired of it.

Drivers who spray cropland + for Duke Energy along roads + in peoples' yards take no precautions. They spray no matter how fiercely the wind blows. People are not contacted to know when spraying is scheduled. Consequently, people are caught by surprise + sometimes cannot escape it, for instance, when I'd be riding my horse way back on the farm.

There should be strict regulations as to how + when chemicals are used. It is no mystery why the Ohio farmbelt has a high rate of cancer. It is a crime + shame what farmers are forced to do.

Pioneer Solar Energy told me no spraying will be done. That's when I signed. The contract has clauses to conserve soil + water resources + to protect it during construction. I believe solar energy without chemical spraying is the way to go.

Please put a stipulation in Hillcrest Solar Farm approval that no chemicals will be used. They are undecided as to best maintain the land.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Myers