

Public comment 18-1578

January 8, 2019

Public Comment 18-1578-EL-BGN

Dear OPSB Board Members,

My name is John Clippinger and I live at 1050 Mann Rd., Eaton, Ohio. This letter is to inform you that I am opposed to the Alamo Solar Facility project that is proposed to go in near our farm in Gasper Township. I am a full-time farmer and my livelihood depends on the income from our farm. I am concerned that nearby solar panels will affect the productivity of my land and I will no longer be able to make a living solely by farming.

I produce corn and beans and already have some yield loss due to wildlife consuming our crops. If 720 neighboring acres are out of production and fenced off from the wildlife because of the Alamo project, where is the wildlife going to feed? They are going to go to my land and eat my crops. How am I supposed to recoup that additional loss of yields?

We also pasture 30 brood cows and sell feeder calves. So far, we have been lucky that we have not had any losses due to the coyotes that are prevalent in our area. However, if the coyotes lose 720 acres to hunt on, will they be more likely to go after our calves? I worry about keeping the herd safe and productive.

My final concern is the drainage of the fields after the neighboring ground is disrupted by the installation of solar panels. Alamo's plans state they plan to go down 10 feet. Will that break existing field tile? Will there be runoff that will flood my land? How much money will I have to spend to correct the drainage problems the Alamo project will create?

Agricultural land should be used to feed people. It should not be taken out of production for energy use. There is plenty of non-productive land that would be better suited for solar energy production. We need to be good stewards of the land we have available to us.

Sincerely,

John Clippinger

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