

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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In the Matter of the :
Application of The Ohio :
State University for a :
Certificate of :
Environmental :
Compatibility and Public : Case No. 19-1641-EL-BGN
Need to Construct a :
Combined Heat and Power :
Facility in Franklin :
County, Ohio. :

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PROCEEDINGS

before Ms. Sarah Parrot, Administrative Law Judge,
and Mr. Samuel Randazzo, Chairman, Ohio Power Siting
Board, called at 6:09 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 2020.

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Tuesday Evening Session,
June 30, 2020.

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ALJ PARROT: Let's go ahead and get started.

Good evening and welcome, everyone. As Matt said, my name is Sarah Parrot. I am an Administrative Law Judge in the Legal Department of the Power Siting Board. I have been assigned by the Board to conduct a public hearing in Case No. 19-1641-EL-BGN which involves an application filed by the Ohio State University for a certificate to construct a combined heat and power facility on its campus in Columbus.

Due to the COVID-19 emergency that remains in effect under Executive Order No. 2020-01(D) which was issued by the governor of the state of Ohio and consistent with Amended Substitute House Bill 197, the public hearing is being held through Webex which enables interested persons to offer testimony on the University's application by telephone or video on the internet. The hearing is also being live streamed at www.youtube.com/users/pucohio.

Before we get started with the testimony,

1 I would like to address some preliminary issues.
2 First, if you experience technical difficulties
3 during the public hearing, we have several options.
4 If your internet connection drops at any point, you
5 can try to join the Webex by video again, or you can
6 participate by phone. If those options are
7 unsuccessful, please call the Board's Legal
8 Department immediately for assistance.

9 Finally, if you merely wish to observe
10 the hearing, you can view the live stream on YouTube.
11 More information about these technical help options
12 can be obtained through the chat feature which will
13 be available throughout the hearing.

14 You may click on the chat button at any
15 time to obtain technical assistance or to ask
16 procedural questions during the hearing. The chat
17 feature should not be used for any other purpose such
18 as to offer comments about the proposed project that
19 is the subject of tonight's public hearing. Please
20 be aware that chats are recorded and should not be
21 considered private. Chats are also not part of the
22 official record for this case.

23 During the hearing individuals who have
24 registered to testify should be ready to speak when I
25 read their name from the registration list.

1 Individuals who are testifying by video will be
2 unmuted by Board staff member when it is time for
3 their testimony. If you are testifying by telephone,
4 a Board staff member will call you at your phone
5 number when it is your turn to testify.

6 Please bear with us as we work to queue
7 up each individual to testify which may take some
8 time. It also may divert our attention at times from
9 what is happening in the hearing. Again, when this
10 happens, please be patient and know that we are
11 working hard to ensure that everyone has an
12 opportunity to participate tonight.

13 We ask that you keep your testimony to a
14 reasonable length of time and avoid repetitive
15 comments. To avoid unnecessary background noise, we
16 will keep your microphone on mute unless you are
17 testifying. If you have questions about this process
18 at the -- as the hearing proceeds, please use the
19 chat function.

20 All right. Now that we have some
21 preliminary issues addressed, let's get started
22 officially with tonight's proceeding. The Ohio Power
23 Siting Board has assigned for public hearing at this
24 time and place Case No. 19-1641-EL-BGN which is
25 captioned in the Matter of the Application of the

1 Ohio State University for a Certificate of
2 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to
3 Construct a Combined Heat and Power Facility in
4 Franklin County, Ohio.

5 As I mentioned earlier, my name is Sarah
6 Parrot. I am an Administrative Law Judge in the
7 Board's Legal Department, and I will be conducting
8 the hearing. Also -- excuse me. Also presiding with
9 me tonight is the Chairman of the Ohio Power Siting
10 Board Sam Randazzo. And I believe that the Chairman
11 has some words to share with us this evening. So I
12 will turn it over to him.

13 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Thank you, Judge
14 Parrot, and thank all of you who are about to
15 testify. We are here to learn from you what your
16 views are with regard to this project, and because
17 this process is important to you, it's important to
18 us. So, Sarah, I won't -- I won't hold things up any
19 further but thanks again to everybody and also the
20 Power Siting Board staff for enabling this
21 opportunity to move forward with the hearing this
22 evening. Thank you.

23 ALJ PARROT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 In addition to the Chairman and myself,
25 there are other staff members from the Board

1 assisting us with the hearing this evening. Mary
2 Fischer and Brittany Waugaman are our event cohosts.
3 They will be overseeing the event on Webex and
4 YouTube. Matt Butler, Matt Schilling, and Anna Perry
5 will also be helping to facilitate our hearing
6 process by monitoring the chat function and queuing
7 up individuals to testify.

8 At this time I would like to take
9 appearances on behalf of the parties to the case, and
10 we will begin with the Ohio State University.

11 MR. ALEXANDER: Hi, your Honor. This is
12 Trevor Alexander from Calfee, Halter & Griswold on
13 behalf of the Ohio State University.

14 ALJ PARROT: Thank you, Mr. Alexander.
15 And on behalf of the Sierra Club.

16 MS. WACHSPRESS: Megan Wachspress on
17 behalf of the Sierra Club.

18 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. The subject of
19 today's hearing is an application filed by the Ohio
20 State University for the purpose of constructing a
21 combined heat and power major utility facility on the
22 University's campus in Clinton Township in Franklin
23 County, Ohio.

24 The proposed facility would serve as the
25 primary source of heating and electricity to the

1 University's Columbus Campus. The University's
2 application was filed on November 6, 2019.

3 I would also note that the Board Staff
4 filed a Report of Investigation on June 5, 2020.
5 This report is a recommendation from the Board's
6 Staff and does not necessarily reflect what the
7 Board's final determination in this case will be.

8 The purpose of this evening's public
9 hearing is to receive testimony regarding the
10 University's application from regional organizations
11 and persons in the local community who are affected
12 by the proposed project but who are not parties to
13 the case.

14 Tonight's public hearing is not a
15 question and answer session, but it is an opportunity
16 to let the Board know what you think about the
17 proposed projects.

18 Tonight's public hearing is only one
19 aspect of the process in this case. An evidentiary
20 hearing is scheduled to commence on July 14, 2020,
21 through Webex. The purpose of the evidentiary
22 hearing is for the parties to the case, Ohio State
23 and Sierra Club, as well as the Board's Staff, to
24 provide testimony and other evidence regarding the
25 project.

1 Tonight's hearing is being transcribed by
2 a court reporter, Karen Gibson, from Armstrong &
3 Okey. If you plan to testify, please speak clearly
4 so that the reporter can accurately reflect your
5 comments on the record.

6 After I finish with this introduction, I
7 will begin by inviting individuals on the
8 registration list to speak about the proposed
9 project. Each person who registered to testify will
10 be permitted to speak once about the project. I will
11 ask you to state your name and your address for the
12 record. Before you present your testimony, I will
13 also ask you to take an oath or affirmation that what
14 you are about to say is the truth. Your testimony
15 will then be considered part of the official record
16 in this case, and it will be reviewed by the Board
17 before a final decision is made on the application.

18 Additionally, the parties to the case and
19 I will be permitted to ask you questions about your
20 statement. Should you decide you do not want to
21 testify when I read your name from the registration
22 list, you can pass to the next witness.

23 Also, once you have finished testifying
24 or you are here merely to observe tonight, you may
25 leave the hearing at any time you wish.

1 The Board appreciates your participation
2 in tonight's hearing, and we want everyone who is
3 registered to testify to have the opportunity to do
4 so.

5 At this time we are going to begin with
6 the testimony. I believe our first witness this
7 evening is Cathy Cowan Becker.

8 MS. BECKER: Yes. Can you hear me?

9 ALJ PARROT: I can.

10 MS. BECKER: Great.

11 ALJ PARROT: All right. Ms. Becker,
12 would you please raise your right hand.

13 (Witness sworn.)

14 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
15 address for the record.

16 MS. BECKER: It's Cathy Cowan Becker. My
17 address is 4275 White Spruce Lane, Grove City, Ohio
18 43123.

19 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Please proceed
20 with your testimony.

21 MS. BECKER: Great. So members of the
22 Ohio Power Siting Board, thank you for allowing me to
23 testify today on the proposal by Ohio State
24 University to build a combined heat and power plant
25 to be powered by fracked gas on the west side of

1 campus.

2 And I am just going to note quickly that
3 the first part of my testimony will be a little bit
4 of background and not specifically about this project
5 but will set up the comments that are specifically
6 about this project. So you will need the background
7 to understand the future comments.

8 So my name is Cathy Cowan Becker. I am
9 the chair of the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Campaign
10 in Columbus and in Ohio. Ready for 100 is a campaign
11 to ask cities to commit to transitioning to
12 100 percent renewable energy. So far 165 cities, 13
13 counties, 8 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico have all
14 made this commitment. That means 100 million people,
15 or 1 in 3, in the United States live in a
16 jurisdiction that is committed to transitioning to
17 100 percent clean energy.

18 In Ohio, we have four cities that have
19 formally committed to transitioning to 100 percent
20 renewable energy by passing a resolution in their
21 city councils and integrating the steps for how to
22 get there in their city's climate action plan. Those
23 cities are Cleveland, Cincinnati, Lakewood, and South
24 Euclid. We also have active campaigns in several
25 cities including Columbus, Dayton, Marietta, Toledo,

1 and Worthington. Two cities, Bexley and Maple
2 Heights, have mayors who have signed a pledge to pass
3 this commitment in their cities.

4 So I am going to skip a little bit that's
5 background on climate change and the effects of
6 climate change on our planet, but I am going to send
7 you the written testimony so you will get it that
8 way.

9 For the past three years Ready for 100
10 Columbus Campaign has been working with city
11 government to push for energy efficiency, renewable
12 energy, and clean transportation programs that will
13 make a material difference in lowering the city's
14 carbon emissions.

15 We have seen a lot of progress in that
16 time. Among other things, the city of Columbus has
17 set a goal for 30,000 home energy audits, especially
18 in low-income areas where people have high energy
19 burdens, and helping residents to make upgrades.

20 We've developed a Residential Property
21 Assessed Clean Energy Program to finance clean energy
22 upgrades at homes, similar to the program the city
23 already has for commercial buildings. They've passed
24 a transparency ordinance requiring owners of large
25 buildings to disclose their energy use so that the

1 city can better track specific sources of emissions.
2 And they've exceeded their goal for adoption of
3 electric vehicles with plans to set an even higher
4 goal in the coming year.

5 Though currently the city of Columbus is
6 putting together its Climate Action Plan with targets
7 for reducing emissions in multiple sectors including
8 buildings, renewables, vehicle electrification,
9 transit, land use, waste, financial -- and finance,
10 with the goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

11 One of the most important steps for
12 achieving this goal is the city's plan to pursue
13 Community Choice Aggregation for 100 percent
14 renewable energy. Through aggregation, local
15 governments can use the buying power of many
16 customers in their communities to purchase
17 electricity or natural gas on their behalf.
18 Aggregation is usually used to negotiate for lower
19 prices in energy, but it can also be used to
20 negotiate the source of the energy supply.

21 During his 2020 State of the City address
22 in February, Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther announced
23 a plan to pursue Community Choice Aggregation for
24 100 percent renewable energy by 2022. Last month the
25 Columbus City Council voted to hire a firm to oversee

1 writing language for this initiative and putting
2 aggregation on the November ballot. And this month
3 the city issued a request for utilities to submit
4 proposals on how they would provide 100 percent
5 renewable energy to the city of Columbus and this
6 means the entire city and its almost 1 million
7 residents, not just city operations, by 2022.

8 So it is hard to overstate what a
9 game-changer Community Choice Aggregation will be for
10 the energy supply, not just in Columbus but across
11 central Ohio. Worthington has already aggregated for
12 100 percent renewable energy through a 2019 ballot
13 initiative that passed by 75 percent. Bexley, Grove
14 City, Dublin, and other suburbs are examining whether
15 they want to do the same.

16 And even more exciting is the source of
17 the renewable energy to fulfill these aggregation
18 contracts. Rather than simply buying renewable
19 energy certificates which are basically carbon
20 offsets, cities in central Ohio want to use
21 aggregation for 100 percent renewable energy to
22 leverage financing to build out local renewable
23 energy projects that would create good-paying jobs
24 right here in Ohio.

25 So this is a model that Cincinnati is

1 successfully using in its aggregation program and
2 through that it committed to buying power from a
3 solar farm under construction in Highland County.
4 Cincinnati had long been aggregated for 100 percent
5 renewable energy but until recently had fulfilled
6 this contract with renewable energy certificates.
7 But when the city committed to buying power for its
8 aggregation contract from a local solar plant, that's
9 what got the banks to okay financing the project, and
10 the project is being built.

11 So as Community Choice Aggregation for
12 100 percent renewable energy spreads in Ohio, we
13 expect to see significant improvements in the energy
14 mix of our grid. Currently Ohio is the sixth highest
15 carbon emitting state, but by pooling together our
16 customers at the local level, we can create
17 good-paying jobs for Ohioans, clean our air, improve
18 public health, and help ensure a liveable planet for
19 future generations. There's literally no downside to
20 this.

21 So with this background, and this is
22 something that Ready -- by Ready for 100 Campaign has
23 been working on for the last several years, I was
24 very surprised and frankly dismayed to learn that
25 Ohio State University, where I recently earned a dual

1 Master's degree in public administration and
2 environment and natural resources, wants to build a
3 plant to be powered by fracked gas in the middle of
4 campus. Not only does the University want to invest
5 millions of dollars to build this fossil fuel
6 infrastructure, they have actually made this the
7 center piece of the University's Climate Action Plan.
8 And at a state -- at a time when the rest of the
9 state is pursuing a clean energy future, this just
10 makes no sense.

11 So here is some specific issues that we
12 have with the proposed gas plant at Ohio State
13 University and its overall climate action plan. So,
14 first, the University claims that the gas plant will
15 immediately reduce emissions by 35 percent compared
16 to the current grid in central Ohio. However,
17 nowhere does the University take into account that
18 the source of energy for all of central Ohio will be
19 changing very soon, as Community Choice Aggregation
20 for 100 percent renewable energy takes effect and
21 helps lead to the buildout of new renewable energy
22 projects to supply energy in our local area. So to
23 claim a 35 percent difference in emissions to the
24 current grid is not relevant when the grid is likely
25 to be completely different by the time this gas plant

1 would be built.

2 Second, the plant accounts for the lower
3 emissions of gas burned at the site of the plant but
4 does not account for emissions from methane that is
5 flared during the fracking process or leaks during
6 the transportation and piping of fracked gas. So as
7 a greenhouse gas, methane is 84 times more potent
8 over 20 years, and it just so happens the next decade
9 is critical to addressing the climate crisis.

10 The last thing we need to be doing is
11 putting more methane in the atmosphere and, in fact,
12 there is new research is finding that methane from
13 fracking have basically wiped out the advantage of
14 gas over coal. And then add to that the damage to
15 the water, air, and land in the Appalachian regions
16 where fracking takes place, and Ohio State is
17 basically outsourcing its dirty fossil fuel
18 pollutions to some of the poorest and disadvantaged
19 areas of our state.

20 Third, most of the rest of the
21 University's claimed reduction in carbon emissions,
22 if I am reading this correctly, 55 percent is
23 attributed to the development of green hydrogen which
24 the University's climate plan says will take the
25 place of fracked gas in 10 years. Yet the plan

1 itself admits that current green hydrogen technology
2 is 40 times more expensive than gas and there is no
3 guarantee this technology will be any more viable in
4 the next decade.

5 So this entire argument is similar to
6 claims that we've heard for many years about clean
7 coal that have never materialized. Coal plants are
8 not installing clean coal technology because it would
9 cost more to install and operate than the profits
10 they make from burning the coal.

11 So our question is why would this
12 technology be any different and why should we bet
13 more than half of the University's carbon emissions
14 reduction on this technology which is currently too
15 expensive when the University could be moving forward
16 with clean energy technology that we know is
17 financially viable right now?

18 Fourth, the University has not taken a
19 serious enough look at renewable energy as an option
20 for supplying the energy needed at Ohio State.
21 Renewable energy can be obtained in a number of ways.
22 Although buildout of large-scale solar may not be
23 possible on the Columbus Campus, it could be done on
24 the branch campuses where there is more room. The
25 University could also work with local utilities and

1 financing agencies to construct near renewable energy
2 projects in central Ohio to supply the campus, much
3 as cities are starting to do. Heating could be moved
4 to heat pumps that are used in much of the rest of
5 the world and that are powered by electricity, as
6 well as an expansion of geothermal which is already
7 in use in some buildings at Ohio State. And
8 additional energy could also be purchased from the
9 renewable energy providers as the energy landscape in
10 Ohio changes.

11 And, fifth, if allowed to be built, the
12 gas plant would worsen air pollution, adding 40 tons
13 of fine particulate matter pollution to central
14 Columbus and Franklin County. Long-term exposure to
15 air pollution has been shown to increase the risks of
16 respiratory and cardiovascular disease as well as
17 COVID-19. The air quality of Franklin County is
18 already badly polluted, and the city is working on
19 this and improving it, but in some areas we are still
20 getting a grade of F from the American Lung
21 Association.

22 So all of this would significantly affect
23 the health of 60,000 students who attend Ohio State,
24 the faculty and staff who work there, patients at the
25 medical facilities, and people who live and work in

1 the surrounding area.

2 So in sum, the proposal to build a
3 fracked gas plant in the middle of the State's
4 flagship university campus in the middle of our
5 capital city during a climate crisis makes no sense,
6 especially when we have much cleaner, cheaper, and
7 more viable renewable energy alternatives that cities
8 in central Ohio are already exploring but that the
9 University has not taken into account.

10 And for these reasons we ask that the
11 Ohio Power Siting Board deny the University's
12 proposal to build a fracked gas plant on campus. And
13 we also ask that you hold an additional hearing for
14 community members on this matter. This hearing is
15 taking place in the middle of summer. It was
16 postponed from April which is understandable but
17 right now there are no students on campus and those
18 will be the people most affected. Also many people
19 in the community, I would think most, have no idea
20 this is being discussed. There have been multiple
21 problems with the website and reports of difficulties
22 in signing up to attend. So we would just ask that
23 you hold an additional hearing so that those most
24 affected by this proposal have a chance to hear about
25 it and participate.

1 And thank you so much for your time.

2 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Are there any
3 questions for Ms. Becker from the counsel to the
4 parties or from the Chairman?

5 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: I have one, Judge
6 Parrot, but I will wait to see if counsel for the
7 other parties have questions.

8 ALJ PARROT: Anything from counsel?

9 MS. WACHSPRESS: Nothing from Sierra
10 Club, your Honor.

11 MR. ALEXANDER: Nothing for Ohio State
12 University.

13 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Mr. Chairman.

14 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Ms. Becker, thank you
15 for your testimony. I just have a question about
16 your -- your aggregation program comments. Is it
17 your understanding that the technology chosen by an
18 aggregation program, that technology associated with
19 the generation supply dictates the generation that
20 will actually run to satisfy the demand of that
21 aggregation program?

22 ALJ PARROT: Ms. Becker, hold a moment.
23 Can we unmute Ms. Becker, please?

24 MS. BECKER: Oh, I'm sorry. Am I on now?

25 ALJ PARROT: You're on now. I'm sorry.

1 MS. BECKER: No worries. No. So most
2 cities in Ohio are aggregated. I think aggregation
3 has been around for a couple of decades in Ohio. But
4 most are aggregated for fossil fuels, and aggregation
5 was originally designed to lower prices, but it can
6 be used if the city wants to to negotiate for the
7 energy supply.

8 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Yeah, that's not my
9 question.

10 MS. BECKER: Okay.

11 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: You implied in your
12 statement earlier that the -- if the city of Columbus
13 chooses an aggregation program that based on your
14 description is 100 percent renewable, that
15 100 percent renewable generation is what is actually
16 being used to satisfy the demand; is that your
17 understanding?

18 MS. BECKER: So it can be the demand
19 could be satisfied through buying renewable energy
20 certificates which is basically carbon offsets or by
21 building out generation that would go into the grid
22 in central Ohio.

23 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: But it's your
24 understanding that if Columbus has an aggregation
25 program that claims to be 100 percent renewable

1 generation supply, that the generation that is
2 actually used to satisfy the demand of that
3 aggregation program is 100 percent renewable.

4 MS. BECKER: That's what the city of
5 Columbus is --

6 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: I am not asking you
7 about the city of Columbus. I am asking your
8 understanding. What is your understanding with
9 regard to that?

10 MS. BECKER: I guess I am not quite
11 following because that's what the city of Columbus is
12 seeking. That's what their request for proposals
13 asks utilities to bid on is how would we provide
14 100 percent renewable energy.

15 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: So you don't have any
16 understanding as to whether or not the actual demand
17 of that aggregation program is being satisfied by
18 100 percent renewable?

19 MS. BECKER: I mean, the program isn't in
20 effect yet because Columbus has to pass a ballot
21 initiative.

22 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Let's assume that the
23 program is in effect right now and that it's
24 characterized as being 100 percent renewable. Is it
25 your understanding that renewable generation will be

1 used to actually satisfy the demand of that -- of the
2 customers served through that program?

3 MS. BECKER: So my understanding is the
4 city will seek to build out local generation, and so
5 immediately it might not. It might be done through
6 renewable energy certificates because it does take
7 time to build, you know, time to build a solar array
8 or build the generation, but the -- the intent is to
9 use that to build this out.

10 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Okay. Now, you
11 indicated you are the Chairman of a particular
12 campaign for the Sierra Club?

13 MS. BECKER: Correct.

14 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Right. And are -- so
15 you are associated with the Sierra Club which is a
16 party in this proceeding?

17 MS. BECKER: Yes. I am not paid staff
18 though. I am a volunteer.

19 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Okay. Thank you.
20 That's all I have, Judge Parrot.

21 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Thank you very
22 much, Ms. Becker. We appreciate your testimony this
23 evening.

24 MS. BECKER: Yes. Thank you. Thank you
25 for the opportunity.

1 ALJ PARROT: I believe our next witness
2 on the registration list is Logan Anthony Sigler. I
3 am not sure that Mr. Sigler is on the video event. I
4 am not seeing him listed, so I am going to make note
5 of that, and we will come back to him at a later
6 point potentially.

7 All right. The third witness on our list
8 this evening, and I apologize, I am going to
9 mispronounce names all over the place this evening,
10 but this one is Victoria Abou-Ghalioum.

11 MS. ABOU-GHALIOUM: Hi. Can you hear me?

12 ALJ PARROT: I can. Welcome.

13 MS. ABOU-GHALIOUM: Thank you. Should I
14 put on the video?

15 ALJ PARROT: If you are able to, that
16 would be great.

17 MS. ABOU-GHALIOUM: Okay. Great.

18 ALJ PARROT: I see you. I am going to
19 ask that you raise your right hand.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 ALJ PARROT: All right. Please state
22 your name and address and spell your name, please,
23 for the record.

24 MS. ABOU-GHALIOUM: Sure. My name is
25 Victoria Abou-Ghalioum. It's A-B-O-U dash

1 G-H-A-L-I-O-U-M. And I live at 204 West Pacemont
2 Road in Columbus, Ohio 43202.

3 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Go ahead and
4 proceed with your testimony.

5 MS. ABOU-GHALIOUM: Great. Thank you so
6 much for allowing me to speak today. Like I said, I
7 am Victoria Abou-Ghalioum. I am a Ph.D. student who
8 works on West Campus, and I am also the Chair of the
9 School of Environment and Natural Resources graduate
10 student organization GradRoots, and I am testifying
11 today to express my opposition to the proposed
12 fracked gas plant being built on West Campus.

13 I oppose the decision to site the plant
14 there, but I also oppose the decision that the plant
15 is being built at all mainly because the Ohio State
16 University has made wide public commitments to
17 achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 which is just in 30
18 years. And that may seem like a long time for us but
19 for processes such as what it will take to achieve
20 that, that's really not that long of a time.

21 And also recently, in April of this year,
22 as Cathy mentioned, Ohio State released an updated
23 plan to cut carbon emissions in half within the 2020
24 to 2030 decade, but centering this plan on the
25 fracked gas plant flies directly in the face of the

1 commitment to become carbon neutral.

2 So not only will the plant inevitably
3 stall more significant actions to incorporate
4 renewable into the Ohio State energy supply or
5 sourcing, the plant would also contribute to
6 environmental harm experienced in that interim
7 period, experienced by students, nearby residents,
8 the medical facilities that are right next door, and
9 even some of the surrounding agricultural areas which
10 are also owned by Ohio State.

11 So I believe Ohio State has a
12 responsibility to protect the health of its staff,
13 faculty, students, and the surrounding community that
14 lives there. I know it is a lot of students that
15 live around there but there are also families.

16 Ohio is already a state with very high
17 asthma rates. I had asthma as a child. And my
18 younger sister continues to suffer from asthma today,
19 and she's 20. Now -- and we grew up in Ohio. This
20 gas plant is not zero emitting; so, therefore, it
21 will contribute to the increase in local air
22 pollution if built which will cause harm to people
23 living and working in this area.

24 Further, fracked gas is not only
25 associated with air pollution, but it's also

1 associated with the contamination of local drinking
2 water as is evident in the Columbus Community Bill of
3 Rights Campus Against Frac Gas in Central Ohio and
4 Appalachia, and Cathy already spoke somewhat about
5 the effects of that, so I will not go into it.

6 But if Ohio State is truly committed to
7 achieving carbon neutrality in the short 30-year
8 window ahead of us, I think renewable such as solar
9 or wind power should have been and should be
10 considered as alternatives to this fracked gas plant.

11 And I also think further that the
12 University would do well to align its goals with the
13 city of Columbus's commitment to be powered
14 100 percent by renewable energy by 2022 as the mayor
15 has stated which is a very aggressive goal at this
16 point in time unless we can achieve 100 percent
17 choice aggregation on the ballot initiative in
18 November. But as it stands, it's a pretty aggressive
19 goal that can only be achieved if the University
20 shows solidarity on this effort.

21 I think we need to be leaders for
22 renewable energy, not fracked gas, and we need to
23 exemplify Ohio State's stated values in their mission
24 and vision statements of excellence and innovation
25 which this does not represent in my opinion.

1 Also as GradRoots Chair, I brought this
2 issue to the attention of many of the students and
3 faculty in our school, and while they are not all
4 here today, no one I have spoken with has expressed
5 really any excitement or approval of the plans to
6 build this gas plant. We work on this side of
7 campus, and we will be among those most affected by
8 the plant, so I think our opposition to this proposal
9 should be taken deeply into consideration.

10 With that I want to say since this
11 hearing date has been shifted both by date and
12 location due to COVID-19, many students and faculty I
13 do believe are not able to attend today because we
14 have not been well reached over the summer months.
15 And also this is just kind of confusing even for me.
16 So I am requesting that a second hearing on this
17 issue be held identical to this type of hearing
18 before any plans move forward so more students,
19 faculty, staff, and concerned citizens can voice
20 their opinions about this gas plant.

21 ALJ PARROT: Mr. Chairman or firm
22 counsel?

23 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Ma'am, this is Sam
24 Randazzo. I am Chairman. I am just curious, you
25 indicated that you were Chair of a grassroots effort.

1 MS. ABOU-GHALIOUM: No. Sorry. It
2 sounds very similar to that. Our organization name
3 is GradRoots, and it is the graduate student
4 organization in the School of Environment and Natural
5 Resources, and so I represent our graduate student
6 body often, and we had planned, a lot of us, to come
7 to the meeting in person, I think back in April, but
8 since then things haven't been going according to
9 plan as we know with unprecedented changes.

10 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Right. So I assume
11 in that capacity you communicated information to
12 others about -- about this proceeding and the hearing
13 this evening; would that be a fair assumption on my
14 part?

15 MS. ABOU-GHALIOUM: Yes, I did.

16 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Okay. Thank you.

17 ALJ PARROT: Any other questions?

18 MR. ALEXANDER: Not from Ohio State, your
19 Honor.

20 ALJ PARROT: Okay.

21 MS. WACHSPRESS: Nothing from Sierra
22 Club.

23 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Thank you very much.
24 Appreciate your testimony this evening.

25 MS. ABOU-GHALIOUM: Thank you.

1 MR. BUTLER: Sarah, really quickly, this
2 is Matt Butler, I just wanted to point out we are
3 trying to reach Logan Sigler by phone and bring him
4 in as a witness that way.

5 ALJ PARROT: All right. I was informed
6 of that through the chat, so we are going to see if
7 Mr. Logan Sigler is on the phone. And we will wait
8 just a moment. Anything from Mr. Sigler?

9 MR. SIGLER: Hello.

10 EXAMINER SANYAL: Mr. Sigler, are you
11 there?

12 MR. SIGLER: Are you able to hear me?

13 ALJ PARROT: I can hear you. Can you
14 hear me?

15 MR. SIGLER: Yes. I apologize for that.

16 ALJ PARROT: That's fine. I am glad we
17 were able to connect you. Because I cannot see you I
18 am going to ask you and trust that you are raising
19 your right hand, Mr. Sigler.

20 MR. SIGLER: Yes.

21 ALJ PARROT: Okay. You have done that?

22 MR. SIGLER: Yes.

23 (Witness sworn.)

24 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Please state your
25 name and address for the record.

1 MR. SIGLER: My name is Logan Sigler. I
2 am a rising junior at OSU, and my address is 875
3 Sherwood Lane, Westerville, Ohio. The ZIP Code is
4 43082.

5 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Mr. Sigler, go
6 ahead with your testimony.

7 MR. SIGLER: Okay. I want to first thank
8 everybody for holding this today and allowing me to
9 testify. I know many of my colleagues and fellow
10 students here who are sitting in opposition with me
11 to this proposal are taking it from a logical
12 standpoint. I am a very emotional and moral driven
13 person, so I wanted to release my beliefs and moral
14 implications and aspects of this proposal.

15 So when I first heard about this
16 proposal, one question and one simple word came to my
17 mind, and this is a rhetorical one, but it was why.
18 Why are we here discussing a proposal that will
19 continue to harm this environment by putting up toxic
20 waste on campus grounds at OSU? And this is not only
21 one that will affect a local community but one that
22 will affect the entire world.

23 At institutions such as Ohio State,
24 people are studying the implications of climate
25 change and the harm CO-2 emissions are having on the

1 environment. And they are also doing this at the
2 United Nations. In fact, they put a report out in
3 2019 saying that, in the report, they did find that
4 limited global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius would
5 require rapid and far reaching transition in land,
6 energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities.
7 Global net human costs of emissions of carbon dioxide
8 will need to fall about 45 percent of 2010 levels to
9 2030 by reaching net zero around 2050. And this
10 means that any remaining emissions will need to be
11 balanced by removing CO-2 from the air.

12 And I want to make clear that we can do
13 this, and we can reach this goal. And Andrew Ginther
14 had mentioned the state of Columbus -- the city of
15 Columbus, excuse me, had already said they are trying
16 to reach by 2022 the goal to reach 100 percent
17 renewable energy, so I find it a bit contradictory
18 that OSU says they are going to try and lead the
19 somewhat revolution in terms of going to create
20 energy, but we are not trying to do what the city is
21 doing and the mayor is.

22 And I also want to state that the
23 consequences that we will have not only locally but
24 worldwide are ones we cannot afford to have because
25 we can't go back from there. And these reports by

1 the United Nations' scientists are saying we will
2 face extreme droughts, we will face extreme weather
3 patterns that will result in flooding that will have
4 people's homes destroyed leading to the rationing of
5 food resources, and you will have a global refugee
6 crisis.

7 In fact, I was watching the National
8 Geographic documentary called Earth under Water, and
9 they said within the next few decades, by 2050, we
10 may hit 6 feet in terms of sea level rise. And that
11 might not seem like a lot, but they are saying once
12 we hit that, people in costal cities all across
13 places like Florida, Texas, California, and on the
14 east coast will have to move and relocate because
15 those areas and coastal cities will become
16 uninhabitable being they are under water and people
17 will have to move and that will result in a global
18 refugee crisis and a national one.

19 And along with that we will have, like I
20 said, food shortages and these are ones we can't
21 avoid and these are extreme consequences we will face
22 in just the next few decades alone. I can't even
23 imagine what will happen if we don't start calling
24 attention now, and I don't even want to know what
25 will happen in 2100 or 2080.

1 This proposal is a bit insulting too
2 because this is not just a proposal to me about a new
3 gas plant or combined heat and oil plant but this is
4 a proposal that will affect my entire generation, my
5 friends who are sitting with me here today, will
6 affect my future family. And this is a debate or
7 conversation, to me at least, about the very
8 existence of humanity and the plant's future as we
9 know it because this is a proposal that will continue
10 to put out toxic waste and gases into the air that
11 have led to the deformation of ecosystems,
12 environments, and homes for decades, and it will only
13 get worse. And this is something we can't avoid at
14 all costs.

15 So to me this proposal is one that is
16 simply unjust, proposed continuation of what could be
17 the demise of humanity and every species on this
18 plant as we know it is only -- is not only
19 inconceivable but reprehensible.

20 With that being said there is just a few
21 questions I would like the Board to ask themselves, and
22 I would not encourage a response but rather should
23 ask themselves. Where should our interests lie? In
24 renewable energy, in the future in this planet, or
25 should it rely on the status quo? We have the

1 opportunity to be leaders in the initiative of
2 change, to make sure my generation and my future
3 family lives in a planet that is sustainable and
4 habitable for them.

5 With that being said, I yield.

6 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Thank you. Are there
7 any questions for Mr. Sigler?

8 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: I have one question.
9 Mr. Sigler, how did you find out about this hearing
10 this evening?

11 MR. SIGLER: We were contacted, our
12 organization, Our Revolution, our -- we are called
13 Our Revolution at Ohio State. Our president, Atticus
14 Williams, reached out to me. I believe he heard from
15 the Sierra Club, I think that was correct, but I can
16 get in touch with him and let you know.

17 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Okay. That's fine.
18 That's the general indication. Thank you. Thank you
19 for your testimony.

20 MR. SIGLER: Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. ALEXANDER: Your Honor, just one
22 question. I didn't hear the name of the
23 organization. Could that be repeated, please?

24 MR. SIGLER: Yes. That's Our Revolution
25 at Ohio State.

1 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you. Nothing
2 further.

3 ALJ PARROT: Nothing from Sierra Club?

4 MS. WACHSPRESS: No, your Honor.

5 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Thank you very much,
6 Mr. Sigler.

7 MR. SIGLER: All right. Thank you.

8 ALJ PARROT: Okay. I believe our next
9 witness is Elena Irwin.

10 MS. IRWIN: Okay. Can you hear me?

11 ALJ PARROT: I can.

12 MS. IRWIN: Okay. It doesn't seem I have
13 the video option though. So I will just go ahead and
14 start speaking. Chairman Randazzo, members of the
15 Board --

16 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Just a moment.

17 ALJ PARROT: Ms. Irwin, just a moment.
18 Let's see, do you see the little buttons? They
19 should be at the bottom of your screen next to the
20 mute but there is a little camera icon? You want to
21 see if you can click on that.

22 MS. IRWIN: Found it.

23 ALJ PARROT: Do you see it? There you
24 are. Now we can see you. Great. Okay.

25 MS. IRWIN: Awesome.

1 ALJ PARROT: Before you start with your
2 testimony please raise your right hand.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Please state your
5 name and address for the record.

6 DR. IRWIN: Elena Irwin, and I am at 2475
7 Sherwood Road in Bexley, Ohio, 43209.

8 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Please proceed
9 with your testimony.

10 DR. IRWIN: Sure. Thank you. Chairman
11 Randazzo, members of the Board, thank you for the
12 opportunity to speak with you today in support of
13 Ohio State's proposed combined heat and the power
14 facility.

15 My name is Elena Irwin. I serve as the
16 Faculty Director for the Sustainability Institute at
17 Ohio State University. I am also a Distinguished
18 Professor of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental
19 Sciences in Economics and Sustainability. I am
20 speaking today as a faculty member with expertise in
21 environmental economics and a citizen who is gravely
22 concerned about the catastrophic impacts of
23 human-induced climate change on our communities,
24 nation, and world. To be clear, I am not speaking
25 tonight on behalf of the University.

1 Recently, the Sustainability Institute
2 led the University's efforts to issue an updated
3 Climate Action Plan. This Plan outlines how the
4 University can achieve long-term carbon neutrality
5 and, most critically, how we can address 55 percent
6 of our current carbon emissions by 2030, which would
7 exceed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental
8 Panel on Climate Change or IPCC.

9 The Plan relies on a mix of strategies to
10 achieve this target. However, the proposed combined
11 heat and power, CHP, facility is the most significant
12 singular factor within the plan to achieve the
13 University's carbon emissions reduction target goal
14 by 2030. While it would be powered by conventional
15 natural gas, the CHP facility provides advanced
16 energy efficiency in delivering electricity and
17 heating to the University campus in comparison to the
18 Ohio State's existing operations and electric grid
19 purchases.

20 These efficiencies that we would gain
21 from this CHP facility will result in improved carbon
22 emissions avoidance and reduction. Further, natural
23 gas has a better emissions profile than our current
24 grid purchased electricity mix, which will continue
25 to include a significant amount of coal-fired

1 electricity generation for the foreseeable future.
2 The CHP facility will largely replace the
3 University's grid energy purchases, thus, also
4 resulting in carbon emission reductions.

5 From a carbon emissions standpoint, it
6 would be, of course, ideal to generate all of the
7 University's electricity from renewable sources.
8 This is our long-term goal in getting to zero
9 emissions and carbon neutrality by 2050. However,
10 it's neither economically nor technically feasible
11 right now for a large institutional buyer like Ohio
12 State.

13 The CHP facility provides the most cost
14 effective approach to meeting our climate action
15 goal. It's far from perfect and it's still a
16 substantial source of greenhouse emissions, but it
17 does move us in the right direction in achieving
18 significant near-term carbon emission reductions.
19 And, while progress towards more renewables is not as
20 rapid as many would ideally like, renewable energy
21 continues to be a dedicated area of focus for Ohio
22 State. For anyone who wants the details, I would
23 refer them to the Climate Action Plan where we spell
24 this out very carefully and clearly.

25 Equally important is the fact that the

1 CHP facility gives Ohio State the flexibility to use
2 renewable fuel sources in the future as those become
3 economically viable. The intention is that over the
4 course of the next decade, new research innovation
5 can enable a transition to a green hydrogen fuel
6 source. This is a key focus area for innovation
7 collaboration between Ohio State researchers and
8 energy sector partners at the University's planned
9 Energy Innovation Center. Of course, renewable
10 natural gas, also known as biogas, is another
11 potential alternative fuel source for the CHP
12 facility. This fuel is already currently available,
13 but it's unfortunately cost prohibitive at this time.

14 In sum, I am supportive of the proposed
15 CHP facility given the immediate, significant, and
16 financially viable emission reductions that it would
17 lead to, as well as the longer-term opportunity it
18 presents to transition to alternative fuel types.
19 The CHP facility fits within a broader University
20 energy portfolio that increasingly incorporates new
21 renewable energy sources and energy efficiency
22 measures in pursuit of long-term carbon neutrality.
23 Most importantly, it delivers substantial near-term
24 carbon emissions reductions aligned with the IPCC's
25 2030 recommendations.

1 Thank you and I would be happy to try to
2 answer any questions if you have any.

3 ALJ PARROT: Thank you.

4 Are there any questions for Ms. Irwin?

5 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: I have none, Judge.

6 ALJ PARROT: Anything?

7 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Thank you for your
8 testimony.

9 MR. ALEXANDER: No, your Honor, nothing
10 for Ohio State.

11 MS. WACHSPRESS: Your Honor, I do have
12 questions, if I may.

13 ALJ PARROT: Okay.

14 MS. WACHSPRESS: Thank you so much for
15 your testimony, Dr. Irwin. When you say that the
16 renewable alternatives are not cost or
17 technologically feasible right now, could you
18 identify what renewable alternatives you at the
19 Sustainability Center considered -- or, excuse me,
20 Sustainability Institute considered or what other
21 alternatives you are referring to there that you
22 undertook a feasibility study of?

23 DR. IRWIN: Well, it's referring both to
24 wind and solar and then also when we look at the
25 alternative for the CHP facility in terms of

1 renewable sources, it would be referring to the -- to
2 biogas or green hydrogen, so green hydrogen is
3 obviously not possible and the biogas is not
4 economically feasible at this point.

5 MS. WACHSPRESS: Okay. So you did
6 conduct full studies of solar and wind alternatives
7 to the proposed facility, cost analysis.

8 DR. IRWIN: Correct.

9 MS. WACHSPRESS: Okay.

10 DR. IRWIN: Correct.

11 MS. WACHSPRESS: And are those documents
12 publicly available, or have you published them
13 anywhere other than the Climate Action Plan that you
14 referred to?

15 DR. IRWIN: It's not spelled out in
16 detail in the Climate Action Plan, but I would be
17 happy to refer you to the person in our staff that
18 works carefully on those.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Somehow wind and
20 solar that are getting cheaper by the day and can be
21 ruled out immediately are not viable.

22 MS. WACHSPRESS: I'm sorry.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And hydrogen that
24 is currently 40 times more expensive is.

25 DR. IRWIN: Part of it has to do with the

1 fact that we are a large institutional buyer, and so
2 our fees are different. I'm not hearing --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sam Randazzo --

4 MS. WACHSPRESS: I'm sorry. If it's
5 possible, I would like to follow up with you and --

6 DR. IRWIN: Please. Absolutely.

7 MS. WACHSPRESS: -- learn more about
8 that.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He is the Chair of
10 PUCO.

11 MS. WACHSPRESS: And then you -- you
12 alluded to the relative carbon emission savings as
13 compared to the grid. What year of the grid did you
14 use to conduct those comparisons? Are those current
15 emissions, or how did you determine that, that
16 number?

17 DR. IRWIN: We went with what the current
18 production information. That includes the screening
19 over time. So it's not the case that we're assuming
20 those are being held constant.

21 MS. WACHSPRESS: Okay. And what is the
22 anticipated lifespan of this plant? How long is it
23 anticipated to operate, the proposed facility?

24 DR. IRWIN: Well, it will operate over
25 decades, but we are -- the fuel source is adaptable

1 and that's the real key in all of this.

2 MS. WACHSPRESS: Okay. Are there any
3 currently operative green hydrogen or biogas hydrogen
4 facilities in the U.S. right now?

5 DR. IRWIN: Biogas is currently
6 available. It is not economically feasible for us at
7 this time.

8 MS. WACHSPRESS: Okay. And are there
9 specific changes that folks anticipate that would
10 make it more economically feasible in the future?

11 DR. IRWIN: Absolutely, costs.

12 MS. WACHSPRESS: Costs but technological
13 changes, what -- why would it cost less five years
14 from now as opposed to right now?

15 DR. IRWIN: Well, it's just failing in
16 adoption, you know, as technology is changing. That
17 would be -- and then also green hydrogen, if there is
18 potential for continued research, as I mentioned, our
19 energy research, this will be a key focus area for us
20 and is already for many of our researchers.

21 MS. WACHSPRESS: But the green
22 hydrogen -- so the biomass exists but is not cost
23 effective. The green hydrogen is still in progress.
24 It's still being considered.

25 DR. IRWIN: It's not commercially viable

1 right now.

2 MS. WACHSPRESS: Not commercially viable
3 or not technologically possible yet?

4 DR. IRWIN: Both.

5 MS. WACHSPRESS: Both. Okay. Okay. And
6 you alluded to other renewables in OSU's portfolio.
7 Could you provide a little bit more information about
8 those.

9 MR. ALEXANDER: Your Honor, at this point
10 I would like to assert an objection here. Just a
11 clarification point, Dr. Irwin, as she testified, is
12 not testifying on behalf of Ohio State, so to be
13 clear that when she is answering these questions, she
14 is not answer on behalf of the University who is a
15 party in this case but is answering based on her own
16 personal knowledge. And so when she says things like
17 us, she is not referring to Ohio State, is not
18 providing Ohio State's positions in this case.

19 ALJ PARROT: Thank you for that,
20 Mr. Alexander. I was -- I had heard that earlier,
21 but I was going to go back to that point. This is
22 sounding a lot like back and forth between two
23 parties that should be having this discussion at the
24 evidentiary hearing.

25 MS. WACHSPRESS: And I am happy to

1 reserve further questions to direct at a
2 representative of OSU if you would like to continue
3 the hearing. So my apologies.

4 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: I would just say it
5 would be helpful to do that in order to allow the
6 people that are actually from the public an
7 opportunity to speak this evening. Thank you.

8 MS. WACHSPRESS: Absolutely.

9 ALJ PARROT: All right. With that I
10 thank you, Ms. Irwin.

11 All right. Our next witness is Linda
12 Sekura.

13 MS. SEKURA: Can you hear me?

14 ALJ PARROT: I can.

15 MS. SEKURA: Oh, good.

16 ALJ PARROT: Let's see if we can get you
17 on video. You should see some buttons at the bottom
18 of your screen. There's a little looks like a film
19 camera. If you can click on that.

20 MS. SEKURA: All right. I clicked on it.

21 ALJ PARROT: Okay.

22 MS. SEKURA: Nothing has happened. Oh,
23 there I am.

24 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: There. There we go.

25 ALJ PARROT: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Congratulations.

2 MS. SEKURA: Thank you.

3 ALJ PARROT: All right. Please raise
4 your right hand.

5 (Witness sworn.)

6 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Very good. Please
7 state your name and address for the record.

8 MS. SEKURA: My name is Linda Sekura,
9 S-E-K-U-R-A, and I am in -- at 20508 Watson Road in
10 Maple Heights, Ohio 44137.

11 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Please proceed
12 with your testimony.

13 MS. SEKURA: All right. Okay. And by
14 the way this testimony was e-mailed just before the
15 meeting and partly during the meeting so I don't know
16 if it saves somebody time in transcribing.

17 ALJ PARROT: Thank you.

18 MS. SEKURA: Again, I am Linda Sekura.
19 I'm a sustainability specialist and ecologist, Maple
20 Heights, Ohio. And, first, I would like to make two
21 main points. No. 1, the Ohio Power Siting Board
22 should reject the proposed natural gas plant for Ohio
23 State University since Ohio law requires that the
24 OPSB not allow construction and operation unless it
25 provides the minimum adverse environmental impact,

1 which it does not, and considering what else is
2 available and much is available.

3 No. 2, it is in OSU's best interests,
4 including for their economic future, to reconsider
5 their current plan since it will result in a much
6 larger carbon footprint and more ecological harm than
7 they may be considering.

8 To explain my background, I am a lifetime
9 Ohioan, with 10 years of professional experience as a
10 contractor at a federal agency, being recruited to
11 assess the life cycle liability of projects, for both
12 economic and environment sustainability, comparing
13 the alternatives, and providing guidance.

14 My feedback saved the agency much time
15 and funds since, based on my guidance, they did not
16 pursue projects that would likely fail. At the time
17 billions of dollars in grants were offered for
18 biomass projects, so I provided a bit of guidance in
19 that area. But I also reviewed other energy concepts
20 and green alternatives for operations and
21 maintenance.

22 And also, for a bit more background
23 before I get to the point, during and after that
24 time, I coordinated two collaborative projects: One
25 for renewable hydrogen and another that I conceived

1 to either provide a highly sustainable method to
2 utilize biomass, and that was by harvesting invasive
3 biomass to restore a wetland, or to potentially
4 indicate that bio-energy may not be a truly
5 sustainable option.

6 And the answer was the latter. One main
7 reason for this conclusion was simple, with biomass
8 and fossil fuels there is a need for ongoing
9 feedstock, ongoing fuel, to produce energy and for
10 ongoing transport of that feedstock which is also
11 using fuel. So how could this be the most viable
12 choice economically and environmentally? On the
13 other hand, sun and wind and storage represent
14 unlimited feedstock with no freight.

15 Shipping of natural gas may not mean
16 trucking or fuel, but it does mean the building and
17 maintenance of tens of thousands of miles of pipeline
18 in Ohio alone, with more planned. These are, in
19 effect, separate dedicated roads for natural gas
20 alone, networks of pipelines that fragment Ohio's
21 natural systems resulting in habitat loss which is
22 the No. 1 driver of species extension.

23 But more to the point of carbon
24 footprint, fragmenting those systems also degrades
25 our natural carbon sinks of deep forests, soils, and

1 freshwater systems. Climate change cannot be
2 addressed without sequestration, even if we were at
3 100 percent renewable energy right now. So we must
4 protect these natural carbon sinks, and natural gas
5 infrastructure instead degrades them.

6 Also by increasing the demand for natural
7 gas, OSU's carbon footprint can greatly increase and
8 well beyond OSU's borders. For example, natural gas,
9 the fracking requires a certain grain size of sand
10 and that sand must be shipped, and again, shipping
11 across long distances. Each well requires about
12 300,000 to 4,000,000 pounds of sand and multiple
13 trucks and trips to handle this heavy freight.
14 Fracking also requires water resources, up to
15 millions of gallons of water per well, forced
16 underground.

17 The bottom line is, I guess, Ohio State
18 is a highly visible university and ranked highly for
19 academics and would do well to take the lead,
20 including in modeling sustainability leadership for
21 students. Sustainable infrastructure experts are
22 widely available, within the state and globally, and
23 would provide free or inexpensive guidance, including
24 for extreme efficiency and zero-carbon buildings to
25 reduce power and heating/cooling demand.

1 All electric is the best path to
2 sustainable infrastructure and one that will likely
3 be forced upon all of us no matter what path we
4 currently choose. For OSU to be investing instead in
5 fossil fuel infrastructure should be of concern to
6 its managers. Ohio's grid currently offers
7 100 percent renewable generation, and I know RECs or
8 whatever, but or, at the very least, the capability
9 for 100 percent renewable generation. That is where
10 infrastructures dollars should be invested.

11 The bottom line is I am asking that the
12 OPSB and OSU please reconsider natural gas and invest
13 in all electric energy-efficient infrastructure, as
14 should any organization that wishes to sustain
15 economically viable operations well into the future.

16 Thank you for your time. I can give my
17 credentials, if you want, but I didn't want to take
18 up too much time.

19 ALJ PARROT: Thank you, Ms. Sekura.

20 Are there any questions from the Chairman
21 or from counsel?

22 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Just one question.
23 Ms. Sekura, are you associated with the Sierra Club?

24 MS. SEKURA: Oh, yes. I think just about
25 everyone is. I am also associated with Our

1 Revolution, with several museums, with the Color of
2 Change, local groups like voting rights groups. It
3 would be very difficult for someone to be involved in
4 ecological work or environmental work without being
5 associated with the Sierra Club at all. It would be
6 kind of ill advised because they have such great --
7 this is a wide network of experts across the nation.

8 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Right, yeah. So
9 thank you. That's it.

10 ALJ PARROT: Anything from counsel?

11 MR. ALEXANDER: No, thank you.

12 MS. WACHSPRESS: No, your Honor.

13 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Hearing nothing,
14 thank you, Ms. Sekura. Appreciate your testimony
15 tonight.

16 Our next witness is Anthony Perrins.

17 MR. PERRINS: Good evening. Can I be
18 seen and heard?

19 ALJ PARROT: I can see and hear you.
20 Please raise your right hand.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
23 address for the record.

24 MR. PERRINS: My name is Anthony Perrins,
25 P-E-R-R-I-N-S. My address is 1994 Iuka Avenue,

1 Columbus, Ohio 43201.

2 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Please proceed
3 with your testimony, Mr. Perrins.

4 MR. PERRINS: Thank you, your Honor,
5 Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Board. I'm
6 going to start by reiterating something that you'll
7 all probably hear many times this evening, that Mayor
8 Andrew Ginther in his state of the city address on
9 February 14, 2020, made a commitment to the city, one
10 that had been a long time coming, in my opinion, that
11 Columbus would transition to renewable energy through
12 community choice adoration by 2022.

13 I first ask the panel a rhetorical
14 question. Does Ohio State's plan to build a new gas
15 power plant right in the middle of campus reflect
16 either the spirit or the letter of that announcement
17 from the mayor of the city?

18 To address this I would like to first
19 cite two of Ohio State University's stated core goals
20 for the University, resource stewardship and
21 innovation. When looking at this new proposed gas
22 power plant, it's important to be clear commissioning
23 a gas power plant in the year 2020 is akin to
24 investing all of your money in horse-drawn carriages
25 in 1910.

1 This does not qualify by any stretch of
2 the imagination as appropriate resource management or
3 innovation. This power plant is not just for the
4 coming three years or the coming five years but will
5 be in use for the coming three decades. If the
6 members of the Board, if your Honor, if the Chairman,
7 if counsel would picture the scenario of three
8 decades from now, if the OPSB would have the chance
9 to reject a fossil fuel plant in the year 2050, they
10 would jump at that opportunity. They would jump.
11 You have that chance today and over the coming weeks
12 and months.

13 Looking at this second of Ohio State's
14 core values that I cited, I would present to the
15 Board that this proposal represents a step backwards
16 in innovation within the University. In 2012, Ohio
17 State committed to buying 50 megawatts of power
18 annually for 20 years from Blue Creek Wind Farm, a
19 wind farm in northwest Ohio. This shows quite
20 clearly that there are other options out there for
21 the University and there are options that the
22 University has considered in the past.

23 This new power plant is not the only way
24 for Ohio State to transition away from the regional
25 power grid over the next few years. And it is a

1 false equivalence to suggest that that is at all the
2 case.

3 Other testimonies this evening have
4 presented the potential environmental impact of this
5 power plant on students and residents of Columbus and
6 of the immediate Ohio State campus area, but my role
7 at Ohio State is as head delegate of Ohio State's
8 Model UN Team, so I would like to put this in a
9 global context. The dramatic air quality impacts
10 that this plant will have on the Columbus and campus
11 area are not alone across the world. As Logan cited
12 earlier in his testimony, the United Nations'
13 environment program would report on the status of the
14 environment in 2019. Joyce Msuya, the Acting
15 Executive Director, stated that we are at a
16 crossroad. We can ask ourself do we continue on our
17 current path which will lead to a bleak future for
18 human kind, or do we pivot to sustainability
19 development?

20 This report that they published stated
21 rather boldly, in my opinion, we need to take action
22 to save our global environment now, not 30 years from
23 now in 2050 but now. The current plan from Ohio
24 State to build a new gas power plant powered by
25 fracked natural gas nonetheless does not reflect this

1 reality.

2 I would now like to turn the Board's
3 attention to an item that my previous testimony also
4 referenced and that is the Ohio Revised Code. Ohio
5 Revised Code Chapter 4906.10, the chapter that
6 describes the basis for the OPSB to make a decision
7 granting or denying a certificate for a utility,
8 states that, and I'm paraphrasing originally here
9 since I am sure you are all familiar with the Ohio
10 Revised Code, the Board shall not grant a certificate
11 for a major utility facility unless it finds and
12 determines that the facility represents the minimum
13 adverse environmental impact considering the state of
14 available technology and the nature and economics of
15 various alternatives.

16 I won't go over this again in the
17 interest of keeping the testimony brief, but I would
18 urge all members of the Board right now to keep this
19 in mind throughout the rest of the testimony and when
20 making their eventual decision.

21 Finally, I would also like to discuss the
22 public response to this proposal. As you can see
23 from this Webex event now, there is a broad coalition
24 committed to opposing the power plant at the
25 University. I actually have not been involved with

1 Sierra Club until I heard of the plans for this
2 plant, but it ended up being recommended to me by
3 multiple sources across the University. It was
4 carried to me by word of mouth. And we are currently
5 attending a hearing, an event, held in the middle of
6 summer when so many of the students, so many of the
7 people that will be directly affected by this plant
8 are unable to attend or to offer their perspective on
9 the building of this plant.

10 Therefore, I would like to make two calls
11 to the Board in this matter and make two requests.
12 Firstly, that the Board schedules a second hearing to
13 appropriately listen to the opinions of real Ohio
14 State students who will be affected by this proposal
15 at a later date when more students can attend.

16 Secondly, I would like to unequivocally
17 oppose the construction of the proposal in Case No.
18 19-1641-EL-BGN and urge the Board does the same in
19 their final consideration.

20 Thank you for hearing my testimony.

21 ALJ PARROT: Thank you, Mr. Perrins.

22 Are there any questions from counsel or
23 from the Chairman?

24 MR. ALEXANDER: Not from me, your Honor.

25 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: None for me, Judge

1 Parrot.

2 Thank you for your testimony.

3 MS. WACHSPRESS: None from me.

4 ALJ PARROT: Thank you very much,
5 Mr. Perrins. We appreciate your testimony this
6 evening.

7 I believe our next witness is Jodi
8 Miller. I am not sure that we have Jodi Miller on
9 the video event, so I am going to pause just for a
10 moment, see if we can confirm that. Okay. I am
11 going to note that.

12 Moving on to Kerry Ard. And I am not
13 sure that we have Kerry Ard either. Again, I am
14 going to wait just a moment.

15 Okay. Next, we have Lucie Pollard.

16 MS. POLLARD: Hello.

17 ALJ PARROT: Hello, Ms. Pollard. How are
18 you?

19 MS. POLLARD: Great. Thank you.

20 ALJ PARROT: Let's see if we can get your
21 video going. You should see some buttons at the
22 bottom of the screen there, one that looks like a
23 camera. Click on that. Ms. Pollard? Ms. Pollard,
24 can you -- I see you. There you are. Okay. Please
25 raise your right hand.

1 (Witness sworn.)

2 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
3 address for the record.

4 MS. POLLARD: My name is Lucretia, that's
5 L-U-C-R-E-T-I-A S. Pollard, P-O-L-L-A-R-D. I live at
6 446 Haymore, H-A-Y-M-O-R-E, Avenue North in
7 Worthington, Ohio 43085.

8 ALJ PARROT: Please proceed with your
9 testimony.

10 MS. POLLARD: Okay. Well, this will be
11 nonexpert testimony, but I should say that I am a
12 founding member of Sustainable Worthington. I have
13 been on the OSU faculty. My husband is a professor
14 emeritus continuing to teach there now by Zoom like
15 everybody else. And I have one daughter who is an
16 alumna of OSU. So we are very involved in the campus
17 community, although currently at our age and stage,
18 we are at home all the time. Fortunately Worthington
19 is a nice place to be for that.

20 And, in part, this is because we have
21 worked actively on many environmental projects
22 including electric aggregation. At this point it's
23 not completely renewable RECs, but we do have a
24 number of those, and we hope to increase that in the
25 future including supporting local renewable energy.

1 For me the concern about air quality on
2 campus is quite personal because my husband suffers
3 from asthma, and although he is very healthy in most
4 ways, he rides a bike down to campus on the multiuse
5 trail or in other weather goes to west campus, parks
6 and takes the bike out of the car and rides to his
7 office. He's obviously going to be affected by this
8 kind of a situation.

9 When I first moved to Ohio, I was
10 concerned about air quality and have become
11 increasingly more active in trying to be as positive
12 as possible about encouraging us to move in renewable
13 directions, and I think that the University as a land
14 grant institution should continue on that path, and
15 we have a great many people at the Ohio State
16 University who work in very innovative fields in
17 those areas. And I hope that that will continue.

18 This project, as far as my admittedly
19 amateur eye can see, it does not seem to fit with
20 what I would expect our University to be doing at
21 this point. I don't think it is a wise step
22 environmentally, and I am also concerned that we not
23 forget that we really are in a stage with the
24 COVID-19 situation where air quality is of great
25 importance for many of us because it's quite clear

1 that lung function is -- is a real problem for people
2 that do suffer from this disease. And it looks to me
3 as though the vaccine is pretty far off which may
4 mean I will be stuck at home for years.

5 So I think that as the University changes
6 as an institution, as our -- as really all of our
7 institutions have to change and grapple with this, we
8 are seeing almost unimaginable kinds of shifts and
9 this may not meet the needs that we have at this
10 point.

11 And so from both an economic and a health
12 point of view, I, as a member of the community, would
13 like to urge you not to take this path. Thank you.

14 ALJ PARROT: Thank you.

15 Are there any questions for Ms. Pollard?

16 MR. ALEXANDER: Not from me, your Honor.

17 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Not from me, your
18 Honor.

19 Thank you, Ms. Pollard.

20 ALJ PARROT: Thank you very much,
21 Ms. Pollard. We appreciate your testimony this
22 evening.

23 Our next witness is Patricia Marida.

24 MS. MARIDA: Hi. Can you hear me?

25 ALJ PARROT: I can hear you. Let's see

1 if we can get you on the video as well. See some
2 buttons at the bottom of the screen? Second from the
3 left is the camera button.

4 MS. MARIDA: I don't see that button,
5 although my camera is plugged in.

6 ALJ PARROT: You need to -- kind of --
7 you may not -- do you see the buttons at the bottom,
8 any of them that could be for the series?

9 MS. MARIDA: More, speaker and
10 microphone. Let's see. Well, no.

11 ALJ PARROT: You may need to kind of
12 hover with your cursor towards the bottom of your
13 screen.

14 MR. BUTLER: You may actually need to
15 click at the bottom of your screen at the bottom of
16 the Webex window. Menu should pop up.

17 MS. FISCHER: I believe she is currently
18 connected to her sound through a phone so I am unable
19 to make her a panelist at the moment.

20 MS. MARIDA: No. I'm connected -- I'm
21 connected through my camera and sound.

22 ALJ PARROT: We can hear you.

23 MS. MARIDA: I know what you mean.
24 There's usually -- if you hover, there's usually a
25 camera opportunity.

1 ALJ PARROT: We can hear you. Can you
2 see us, Ms. Marida?

3 MS. MARIDA: Yes.

4 ALJ PARROT: That's good. I am going to
5 ask you to go ahead and raise your right hand.

6 MS. MARIDA: Okay. It's raised.

7 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Very good.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Please state your
10 name and address for the record.

11 MS. MARIDA: My name is Patricia Marida,
12 M-A-R-I-D-A. I live at 1710 Dorsetshire Road, that's
13 D-O-R-S-E-T-S-H-I-R-E Road in Columbus.

14 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Please go ahead
15 with your testimony.

16 MS. MARIDA: Okay. So -- so addressing
17 Chairman Randazzo and members of the Ohio Power
18 Siting Board, I appreciate the opportunity to speak
19 to everyone this evening. I am speaking as a proud
20 graduate of the Ohio State University. However, I
21 would like to speak in opposition to the University's
22 combined heat and power plant.

23 It's hard for me to understand why the
24 University would promote a new gas plant as a
25 component of its Climate Action Plan. How can the

1 burning of more fossil fuels change the trajectory
2 toward the climate disaster? Fracked gas and the
3 technology of the past, witness Chesapeake Energy
4 filing for bankruptcy two days ago on June 28. The
5 University would be locked into using this planet
6 destructing operation for decades.

7 Replacing coal with a different
8 unsustainable and climate crisis fueling fossil fuel
9 will not prevent catastrophic disaster regardless of
10 what the University officials may believe about gas
11 being less polluting than coal. The gas industry
12 assurances that gas is less polluting than coal has
13 been challenged worldwide. Heating with gas from
14 wellheads and pipelines has not been measured nor
15 accounted for in industry and governmental
16 statistics.

17 Natural gas is largely methane. As has
18 been mentioned before, in the first two decades after
19 its release, methane is 84 times more potent than
20 carbon dioxide. Neither gas burning analyses account
21 for the disasters of natural gas fracking all along
22 its contamination chain. This includes us using vast
23 amounts of scarce freshwater and adding 600 plus
24 chemicals to that water in varying amounts
25 permanently contaminating that water and hauling that

1 water and other components to wellsites in thousands
2 of truckloads that use gasoline, that pump exhaust
3 fumes into the air, and that destroy local roads.
4 Trucks also bring in mountains of mined elsewhere
5 sand which when pumped into the ground serves to hold
6 the shale open so that gas can flow out.

7 Large amounts of electricity are then
8 used to exert pressure that fractures bedrock,
9 pumping chemicalized water and sand, and creating
10 earsplitting noise in the process. This clacking
11 which opens up the shale also disrupts bedrock water
12 flow that almost universally leads to contaminated
13 aquifers and wells. We see videos of households
14 where gas can be ignited as it comes out of water
15 taps. Half of that chemicalized water, many of those
16 chemicals being carcinogenic, is left in the ground
17 to contaminate future generations.

18 The other half comes out and is hauled
19 away again in trucks where it is injected into the
20 ground and in other locations where it can also
21 continue to contaminate future generations. That
22 half also unfortunately contains uranium and radium
23 and other radioactive elements that occur in the
24 shale bedrock. These are the same elements that are
25 the source of radon gas escaping into our basements,

1 to some people's basements.

2 This radioactive and chemically --
3 chemicalized water is even sometimes pump -- put into
4 municipal wastewater. Municipal systems are made to
5 deal with organic waste, not chemicals. No treatment
6 can reduce radioactivity.

7 The result is that much of this material
8 will go unchanged into rivers contaminating surface
9 water. Many of us have seen the article about
10 fracking entitled "American's Radioactive Secret"
11 that appeared in Rolling Stone magazine last January.
12 Reporter Justin Nobel spent almost two years
13 researching and writing this article. The University
14 would do well to sign more power purchase agreements
15 like was mentioned before buying power from Blue
16 Creek Wind Farm in northwest Ohio as it did in 2012.

17 Such arrangements support development of
18 renewables. A new natural gas plant would actually
19 lock in demand for the fossil fuel for the
20 foreseeable future. It is time for the University to
21 step forward with leadership, not backward, and
22 advocate a sustainable answer to the climate dilemma.
23 This can be done by promoting, researching,
24 developing, and using renewable energy sources like
25 wind, solar, and particularly efficiency.

1 Besides having a far better footprint,
2 efficiency and renewable energy costs less and
3 produces more jobs. Jobs in the grid are
4 decentralized eliminating major blackouts. So in
5 conjunction I would like to ask the Power Siting
6 Board to deny a permit for the Ohio State
7 University's combined heat and power plant and to
8 hold another hearing, particularly -- particularly
9 since Ohio State students may want to be able to
10 testify.

11 And to answer Chairman Randazzo's
12 anticipated question, I chair the Ohio Sierra Club's
13 Nuclear Free Committee, and I am a member of the core
14 team of the National Sierra Club's Nuclear Free
15 Campaign. I also have been involved with OSU
16 students opposing this gas plant for at least the
17 past -- seems like the past year, and I was down
18 there at a rally at President Drake's office opposing
19 this plant quite some time ago.

20 So -- so thank you so much for allowing
21 me to testify this evening.

22 ALJ PARROT: Thank you, Ms. Marida.

23 Are there any questions for this witness
24 from counsel or the Chairman?

25 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: None from me, Judge

1 Parrot.

2 Thank you for your testimony.

3 MS. WACHSPRESS: None from me, your
4 Honor.

5 MR. ALEXANDER: None from me as well.

6 ALJ PARROT: All right. Thank you very
7 much, Ms. Marida.

8 Our next witness is Adam McCarty.

9 MR. McCARTY: Yes. Hello. I am also --
10 I have no camera option, so I would prefer that we do
11 not focus or worry on that. I will symbolically
12 raise my right hand because there is a lot of
13 students that need to say a lot of very important
14 things.

15 ALJ PARROT: So I will ask you to raise
16 your right hand, Mr. McCarty.

17 MR. McCARTY: Yep.

18 ALJ PARROT: Okay.

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
21 address for the record.

22 MR. McCARTY: Adam Thomas McCarty. My
23 address is 6218 Balmoral Drive, Dublin, Ohio 43017.

24 ALJ PARROT: Please go ahead with your
25 testimony.

1 MR. McCARTY: Okay. I am actually going
2 to put my testimony on hold for just a second because
3 I need to make a comment. I am very bothered,
4 perturbed. Through most of Pat's testimony, most of
5 you were looking at your phones and I can see you on
6 camera looking at your phones and it didn't seem like
7 a lot of you were actively listening and that really
8 bothers me because I put a lot of work into making
9 sure people were aware of this and have actually
10 shown up during a pandemic, during mass protest,
11 during all kinds of things.

12 If an undergraduate can actually reach
13 out to people and talk to them at a respectful level
14 and treat them as human beings, I think you can all
15 put your phones down for a couple of hours, I would
16 hope, to listen to the public and what they have to
17 say. So that's where I am going to start. From
18 there I am going to go into the actual testimony.

19 Good evening to all my friends, peers,
20 co-workers, and community members who have chosen to
21 attend this hearing and either speak in opposition to
22 this proposal or simply make your apprehension to it
23 known by your virtual presence.

24 I thank you all for the help you provided
25 me in preparation for this hearing. I know it was

1 strange getting sporadic e-mails about a potential
2 hearing and then no hearing and then a hearing and
3 then registration until finally the grace of what I
4 can only presume to be multiple gods we have arrived
5 here at the hearing.

6 My name is Adam McCarty, and I am a
7 rising third year here at the Ohio State University.
8 I chose to begin with that acknowledgment, gratitude
9 to everyone in attendance, as it will be presumably
10 the only positive thing I have to say between now and
11 the end of my testimony.

12 I have worked to make information
13 surrounding this proposal known among various
14 concerned student groups, specifically those state
15 commitments to sustainability, equity, justice, or
16 anything that's in a similar vein, generally speaking
17 the good things in life.

18 I have been extremely frustrated with the
19 entire process. I say that as an OSU student,
20 life-long Ohio resident, and work dedicated to
21 learning about the plant in order to accurately
22 spread information to others in the campus community.

23 Think of me as a translator, if you will.
24 I do not know if this is a problem translators often
25 face in their line of work because I am no expert in

1 the field of translation but there seems to be an
2 extra layer of people translating information that
3 is, well, seemingly nonsensical. When discussing the
4 proposed role of the heating and cooling gas plant
5 with other students, I would often be asked what the
6 purpose of this plant was or in what way it was
7 argued to be beneficial.

8 I found myself saying the phrase I don't
9 know quite often, and as a person who's dedicated a
10 good deal of time over the past few months to
11 understand this proposal, that is extremely
12 concerning. Also concerns me that there were no
13 comparative studies released to the general community
14 that I am aware. I know they were referenced earlier
15 by the professor from the Sustainability Institute.

16 In all of my research done reading about
17 this for a month, I have seen no studies, looked
18 through multiple OSU releases, the Ohio Power Siting
19 Board releases, and on and on. I haven't seen any
20 studies, so if you do have that information, I would
21 love to see those. And then from now -- so community
22 between the plant in question, other forms of
23 renewable energy, it seems quite apparent shown by
24 the evasion of a prior environment studies and
25 investigations, that this proposal is the minimum

1 level of effort to claim that the university is
2 taking action in regards to the climate crisis, the
3 minimum in regards to a crisis, a thing that we
4 commonly in our disperse call a crisis for my
5 generation, the minimum.

6 It disheartens me greatly over my short
7 two-year tenure at OSU, only two years now, I have
8 repeatedly come into contact with inequity,
9 injustice, and dare I say exploitation during my time
10 as a part of the campus community. This proposal in
11 my mind is a horrific personification of these
12 events.

13 If the Board seeks to approve this
14 proposal, they will be making an implicit yet firm
15 statement to all members of the Ohio State University
16 that the exploitation of our one and only shared
17 habitat is, in fact, acceptable and somehow
18 beneficial to the young people studying the current
19 crisis.

20 The Board and the University by extension
21 will be making it clear that the long-term health and
22 well-being of the true investors to the University
23 students means little when it comes to matters of
24 soleless bureaucratic business. And these seemingly
25 thoughtless decisions occurring at every level of

1 every single public institution, every local and
2 state government, and at the highest level of our
3 national administration will have consequences
4 whether you choose to investigate them or not because
5 my generation will feel them. We will live them. We
6 will lose so much.

7 Going on from there, I plead just as a
8 student, as a concerned human being, deeply consider
9 the immediate long-term and known complications and
10 the implications of this proposal and your chosen
11 response.

12 In order to more fully illustrate my
13 views, I will quote one of those criminally
14 under-known year graduates of the Ohio State, Phil
15 Ochs, a man who left one credit away from a
16 journalism degree, left the flatlands of Ohio from
17 which he was born and bred, the land from which his
18 ethics were derived, and flew to New York City to
19 join the budding corporate revival, antiwar and
20 pro-civil liberties protests as well as union
21 organizing to fight for what his state and home had
22 taught him to be correct.

23 One of the many songs written by Ochs'
24 hand before his untimely death, might I say to
25 suicide from despair over things like this where

1 random bureaucratic boards decided to make general
2 choices for the general public, is titled "I am going
3 to say it now." To quote the poetic writing of Ochs,
4 "I am just a student, sir, and only want to learn,
5 but it's hard to read through the risin' smoke from
6 the books that you like to burn. So I'd like to make
7 a promise and I'd like to make a vow that when I've
8 got something to say, I'm gonna say it now."

9 In recognition and admiration of the
10 forgotten legacy of Phil, I will say exactly what I
11 have to say, and I will say it right now. I will say
12 clearly that I expect higher aspirations from the
13 University I have chosen to attend and a higher
14 understanding of their obligations to the public's
15 well-being.

16 I will say clearly that for too long the
17 depth of education in our society has become one of
18 monetary and material burden for the student rather
19 than the intellectual and emotional obligations of
20 the University or the professor. I will ask firmly
21 and with great concern that the Board chooses to
22 reject this abhorrent proposal that will affect our
23 community environment more than we already have. And
24 if not, that you hold a second hearing surrounding
25 the merits of the proposed plant so that students and

1 community members with adequate plans can debate and
2 discuss the plant without being forced to scramble
3 through the contemporary philanthropy of local
4 protests, an international pandemic, and broken
5 registration links all simply in an attempt to make
6 the University that has a stated commitment to their
7 well-being give their concerns and fears of the near
8 and far future.

9 I ask that Ohio State have a
10 representation of everything Mr. Ochs and myself came
11 to understand in our long upbrings in the state of
12 Ohio, make the moral, ethical, and apathetic choice.

13 If you are not convinced following my and
14 others' testimonies, I know little can be done, so I
15 ask you as a consideration of what I said, to
16 directly understand the words of Phil Ochs, a man who
17 again committed suicide out of despair because of
18 choices like this, Phil Ochs said, "I know that you
19 were younger once because you sure are older now.
20 And when I've got something to say, sir, I'm going to
21 say it now. I said what I must say and I hope that
22 you do what you know you must."

23 I sincerely hope you hear the cries of
24 both desperation and despair from a young,
25 overworked, and often dismissed generation, one who

1 I -- need I remind you during a pandemic has shown up
2 to a public hearing to make it known how they feel
3 about things from across the world, from across the
4 state, everywhere. If they can do that so that, you
5 know, for undergraduates, that's pretty impressive
6 and especially for a dismissed generation.

7 We see not a future of brighter days and
8 better tomorrows but one of smog-filled skies and
9 disease, and we ask that you help convince us of the
10 false narrative, the false nature of that envisioned
11 future by acting urgently, enthusiastically, and
12 morally right now today.

13 I ask that you do not do what is easy or
14 the most profitable but to do what is right by your
15 students, staff, surrounding community, and the
16 world. Make a firm statement that OSU understands
17 the nuance nature of environmental issues as issues
18 of universal concern. Everybody gets affected by
19 climate change. Everybody on this Board will be
20 affected by change in climate pattern. And every
21 single one of us will be affected. It is literally a
22 universal issue, one of the few we have that we can
23 unify behind anyways.

24 To finish with one final quote from an
25 author, with perhaps too much foresight in humanity,

1 I will ask that you honor the sentiment of one of
2 American author Kurt Vonnegut's final quotes "Dear
3 Future Generations: Please accept our apologies. We
4 were rolling drunk on petroleum. Love, 2006." Kurt
5 saw it in 2006; it's 2020 and nothing has changed.

6 And in case you have forgotten, I would
7 like to remind you that the students of Ohio State
8 are paying close attention to what you do during and
9 following the end of this call and that your choices
10 follow your names and we will remember exactly what
11 you choose to do either for or against our
12 generation.

13 Thank you very much from a very concerned
14 Ohio State student.

15 ALJ PARROT: Any questions for
16 Mr. McCarty?

17 MS. WACHSPRESS: No, your Honor.

18 MR. ALEXANDER: Not from me, your Honor.

19 ALJ PARROT: Hearing none --

20 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: None.

21 ALJ PARROT: -- thank you very much for
22 your testimony, Mr. McCarty.

23 Our next witness I believe is Kathy
24 McGlone or McGlone, and I believe she is calling in
25 to the hearing this evening.

1 MR. SCHILLING: Your Honor, this is Ohio
 2 Power Siting staff. I have been unable to reach the
 3 next witness by phone.

4 ALJ PARROT: Okay. I'm sorry,
 5 Mr. Schilling. Did you say the next witness as well,
 6 Andrea Cohen?

7 MR. SCHILLING: No.

8 ALJ PARROT: Ms. McGlone, okay. Thank
 9 you.

10 Then the next witness is Andrea Cohen.
 11 She was also to participate by phone, I believe.

12 MS. COHEN: Hi. I am here by video. Can
 13 you hear me?

14 ALJ PARROT: I can hear you, and I can
 15 see you.

16 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Yep.

17 ALJ PARROT: Great.

18 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Welcome.

19 ALJ PARROT: Ms. Cohen, would you please
 20 raise your right hand.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 ALJ PARROT: Pleases state your name and
 23 address for the record.

24 MS. COHEN: My name is Andrea Cohen, and
 25 I live at 2048 Iuka Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201.

1 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Please proceed
2 with your testimony.

3 MS. COHEN: Thank you. I would like to
4 begin by saying that I am not associated with Sierra
5 Club or any other environmental group on campus. I
6 am just a rising senior at Ohio State and a concerned
7 citizen.

8 During my time at Ohio State, I have been
9 a part of many amazing opportunities to engage with
10 the Columbus community including the Martin Luther
11 King Day of Service, packaging food for those who are
12 food insecure, and volunteering in the community with
13 various clubs. Within these volunteering roles, I
14 have seen firsthand the powerful positive effect that
15 Ohio State and its students can have on the community
16 which is why I am here today to voice my strong
17 opposition to the proposed gas plant.

18 My friends and peers see and feel the
19 impending and very tangible doom of climate change.
20 It is as real to us as the sky is blue and the grass
21 is green. The warning that we have heard from
22 scientists is that we only have two or three more
23 years to start implementing big changes to slow
24 climate change is one we take seriously and very
25 personally.

1 I do not know a single person within my
2 generation who hasn't tried to make some small change
3 in their daily life to reduce ways to emit less
4 greenhouse gases and/or use less water.

5 Ohio State has even been a leader in
6 helping people like me make those changes. The Ohio
7 Union Activities Board, or OUAB, passes out reusable
8 straws at every event, the 10X OSU events hand out
9 reusable bags, buildings have switched to air hand
10 dryers instead of paper towels and even providing bus
11 transportation around campus and around Columbus to
12 students shows how Ohio State is taking forward steps
13 towards environmental responsibility.

14 These things are what a great university
15 should do. They support students move towards
16 sustainability, and now with this proposed gas plant,
17 Ohio State has the opportunity to show their support
18 for sustainability in a deeper and more long-term
19 work.

20 Therefore, establishing a new gas plant
21 is hypocritical, irresponsibility, and a backwards
22 action, especially when Ohio State has committed to
23 several sustainability goals. A new gas plant would
24 highlight Ohio State's poor leadership in which the
25 best interests of Ohio State members and the

1 surrounding community is not represented. A new gas
2 plant would be a glaring blemish on Ohio State's
3 reputation when we look back and ask who were the
4 leaders, shakers, movers, and changers who helped
5 slow down and stop climate change.

6 On another note, CO-2 emissions and other
7 gas-related complications almost always
8 disproportionately impact communities of color and
9 low income communities. We have several examples of
10 that in history including Standing Rock. If Ohio
11 State has any care for the people that they employ,
12 educate, and impact in the community, they would
13 dismiss this new gas plant without hesitation or
14 doubt.

15 As stated previously, in the age of
16 COVID-19 or coronavirus, having good air quality has
17 become more important than ever. It disgusts me and
18 should be equally disgusting to all of you that Ohio
19 State has been given an exemption for conducting an
20 analysis of the effects of the gas plant on the
21 surrounding air quality. Are you kidding me? If
22 Ohio State cuts corners in this way, how can we pride
23 ourselves on being a school with integrity? We
24 cannot.

25 How can Ohio State say they advocate for

1 a community when they turn around and pollute the
2 air? The entire United States is only 3.797 million
3 square miles. To power the entire U.S. on solar
4 energy, you would only need to dedicate about 21,000
5 square miles, and there's a picture of what it would
6 look like on Google. It looks so small in comparison
7 to the huge amount of space we have in the United
8 States.

9 Meanwhile, the Ohio State campus is only
10 about 26 square miles, main campus. Using a simple
11 ratio, Ohio State would only need to dedicate
12 literally 0.14 square miles to power the entire main
13 campus. A sustainable future is not just this math
14 equation. Scientists have stated that sustainability
15 and renewable technology is ready and available. I
16 don't know if you have driven to Van Wert, Ohio, to
17 see the wind farm, but it is a beautiful marvel to
18 behold, and I would be proud to see something like
19 that or something that resembles solar energy on
20 campus.

21 Ohio State has an amazing opportunity in
22 its hands to invest in the green future the community
23 craves, and to throw it away for a nonrenewable,
24 outdated, disastrous gas plant is a horrific abuse of
25 power.

1 I would be ashamed to my call myself a
2 Buckeye if Ohio State moved forward with this gas
3 plant. This is not a healthy, wise, or sustainable
4 investment. I implore you, therefore, as a young
5 leader who will live to see the effects of what Ohio
6 State chooses today to choose green and to not move
7 forward with the gas plant on OSU's campus or at all.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 ALJ PARROT: Thank you, Ms. Cohen.

10 Are there any questions?

11 MS. WACHSPRESS: No, your Honor.

12 MR. ALEXANDER: No, your Honor.

13 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: No, your Honor.

14 ALJ PARROT: All right. Thank you very
15 much, Ms. Cohen. We appreciate your testimony.

16 Our next witness is Brian Larcey.

17 MR. LARCEY. Can you all hear me?

18 ALJ PARROT: I can hear you.

19 MR. LARCEY: Great.

20 ALJ PARROT: Mr. Larcey, can you click on
21 the camera button? Do you see that?

22 MR. LARCEY: Yes.

23 ALJ PARROT: Very good.

24 MR. LARCEY: Can you see me now?

25 ALJ PARROT: I can. Thank you. Please

1 raise your right hand.

2 (Witness sworn.)

3 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
4 address for the record.

5 MR. LARCEY: My name is Brian Larcey,
6 L-A-R-C-E-Y. I have live at 2708 Hibbert Avenue,
7 Columbus, Ohio 43202. I'm an independent citizen not
8 associated with any group. I am a graduate of Ohio
9 State University with a Bachelor's in mechanical
10 engineering, and I am currently employed as an energy
11 engineer at Johnson Controls. And I am a holder of
12 the certified energy manager cert -- AEE
13 certification.

14 I agree with a lot of what the previous
15 speakers mentioned and went into detail with
16 regarding environmental benefits and sustainability,
17 but I don't really want to focus on that for my time.
18 I would like to take a look at this proposal just
19 more from a long-term investment point of view and
20 from a fuel source point of view and looking at how
21 those fuel sources might be changing over the next 5,
22 10, 25, 30 years. And so that's the direction I want
23 to take this.

24 I guess let's start with the projected
25 trend of natural gas. Referencing an article from

1 Investment Business Daily and just other general
2 knowledge, the gas extraction technology, fracking
3 has -- it's mainly a matured technology. It has a
4 relatively high capital cost of operation and
5 investment. Many of the companies are kind of
6 startup and somewhat newer. Many of them are in
7 significant debt, and the profitability of fracking
8 gas has increased over the years, especially as the
9 kind of easy to tap reserves have started to run out.
10 There is -- there is waning investment from capital
11 groups.

12 And it just seems as though natural gas
13 is probably not the -- going to be the preferred fuel
14 source in the next, you know 5, 10 years from now.
15 An earlier speaker mentioned or referenced it as akin
16 to investing in horse-drawn carriages in 1910, and I
17 think that is a really good way of driving that point
18 home.

19 So the idea of constructing long-term
20 infrastructure based around natural gas or otherwise
21 combustion, I know we talked about biogas or
22 hydrogen, and I will mention those in a second, but
23 it just doesn't seem like an effective strategy for
24 long-term energy production. I recognize there
25 are -- that there are different challenges for

1 heating versus electricity.

2 But that being said I don't think natural
3 gas is going to be anywhere close to as viable as
4 another fuel source as it is now or has been for the
5 last 10 or 15 years. The -- one of the earlier
6 speakers, the director of Sustainability, or the
7 Board of Sustainability at Ohio State, she mentioned
8 that there is significant research going on into
9 hydrogen production, new ways of hydrogen production,
10 and that's -- and framed it as a way out, a way to
11 get away from natural gas. And I -- I mean, frankly,
12 I see that as kind of a pie in the sky option, not to
13 disrespect or discourage further research and
14 investment in it. I think it is absolutely something
15 that is -- that should be explored at -- you know, as
16 far as it can go, and I really do hope it becomes a
17 viable source.

18 But to use that kind of very uncertain
19 future as an explanation, a reason why you would get
20 away from natural gas just seems to me like not a
21 very well formed argument. It's not commercially
22 viable right now.

23 Generally from the research phase, the
24 University research phase, when a technology is
25 developing like this, it takes much longer than 10

1 years to become commercially viable, especially for
2 the sort of scale like institutional scale that Ohio
3 State would need in order to run the CHP plant off of
4 hydrogen.

5 To counter that with renewables -- well,
6 back up one second for biomass. I mean, biomass is
7 still -- it's not fossil fuel in the sense it's
8 coming from fossils, you know, degrading organic
9 material, but it's still fossil fuel in the sense
10 it's burning. It's combustion. It's making CO-2.
11 It's making pollutants, so I don't really see that as
12 a worthy alternative to gas.

13 There is plenty of -- there is plenty of
14 issues with biomass. Sort of like creating ethanol
15 from corn. It takes a lot of CO-2 to grow all that
16 corn and turn it into ethanol which is -- which is
17 actually not even a good way to fuel your car.

18 Cover that with renewable wind and solar,
19 that's an industry and an energy source that is
20 experiencing tremendous growth, and it's only going
21 to continue that. I think everyone here can agree on
22 that. The costs continue to go down, and if we look
23 at the projection of what's going to happen in
24 natural gas compared to wind and solar and
25 potentially other alternative fuel sources, if we

1 look at what we think the viability of that's going
2 to be in 10 or 15 years when this plant will be still
3 relatively new where he -- or maybe kind of middle
4 age, I think there is going to be a stark contrast
5 there.

6 The technology hasn't even begun to
7 mature yet, or it's not all the way mature.
8 Contrasting with the natural frac -- natural gas
9 expansion which means that it's going to become
10 larger in scale, it's going to get cheaper. It's
11 going to become more efficient in terms of converting
12 the available resources from the environment in wind
13 and solar into actual energy, and it's just the
14 viability of those technologies are just going to
15 continue to become greater.

16 I understand that in the context of
17 providing energy to a large institution like Ohio
18 State, electricity is kind of -- that's kind of the
19 easy answer. We have answers for electricity.
20 That's wind and solar and it's a much more simple
21 argument.

22 In terms of heating I think that's where
23 things get a little bit more dicey, especially in
24 terms of how to heat existing buildings which mainly,
25 I assume -- I don't know what all the heating

1 infrastructure looks like at Ohio State, but I would
2 assume it is hydronic which means hot water.

3 Generally most hot water production is done using
4 boilers which are almost all natural gas, I would
5 assume. There's not a whole lot of electric boilers,
6 although they do exist.

7 From a current fuel cost perspective, it
8 is much less expensive, much cheaper to run off of
9 natural gas in terms of actual unit of heat you get
10 out per unit of fuel input. That's going to change,
11 of course, as natural gas prices start to increase
12 because the technology is matured and it's become
13 less viable and the source is running out as I
14 explained earlier.

15 Also that the fuel source for electricity
16 is going to continue to go down, especially as wind
17 and solar kind of proliferate and especially if they
18 were to divert energy production from -- from a CHP
19 plant to something like working with utility
20 companies or even just building their own
21 infrastructure in terms of wind and solar on campus
22 or off campus.

23 I'm assuming that a significant portion
24 of the energy produced by the proposed CHP plant is
25 going to be new -- new expansion, new construction,

1 and I think that really gives the University an
2 opportunity to move away from hydronic heating which
3 would primarily depend on gas towards using either
4 heat pumps, geothermal, or maybe even variable
5 refrigerant flow systems which would provide both
6 heating and cooling and not rely on the burning of
7 natural gas or fossil fuels in order to produce --
8 produce heat.

9 I would also say that a good strategy for
10 the University to adopt would be to replace existing
11 hydronic systems as they age out and as it makes
12 sense with alternative systems such as heat pump,
13 VRF, or possibly electric boilers.

14 That's pretty much the extent of my
15 comments and I just want to kind of summarize that,
16 again, I don't think that a CHP plant is going to be
17 a preferred option if we are looking 5, 10, 15, 20,
18 25 years into the future. I think it would be looked
19 on with regret. Even though a CHP plant probably is
20 the most efficient way to utilize natural gas, I
21 think natural gas is going to be -- is going to fall
22 out of favor as a fuel source in the coming years.

23 ALJ PARROT: Thank you, Mr. Larcey. Are
24 there any questions for the witness?

25 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: None.

1 MR. ALEXANDER: No, thank you.

2 ALJ PARROT: Hearing none --

3 MS. WACHSPRESS: I don't have a question
4 for the witness, but I do have a logistical question.
5 Those who have been skipped over, if -- are we going
6 to circle back to them or if they are available, do
7 they have another opportunity?

8 ALJ PARROT: If we can get them
9 connected, we will see where we are at but so far
10 that's my intention, yes.

11 MS. WACHSPRESS: Okay. Thank you so
12 much.

13 ALJ PARROT: Uh-huh. Our next witness is
14 Patricia Sharkey.

15 MS. SHARKEY: Hello.

16 ALJ PARROT: Hi, Ms. Sharkey.

17 MS. SHARKEY: Let's see. There we go.

18 ALJ PARROT: Get your video started.

19 MS. SHARKEY: Can you hear me?

20 ALJ PARROT: I can hear you and see you.
21 Raise your right hand.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
24 address for the record.

25 MS. SHARKEY: My name is Patricia

1 Sharkey. My address is 6236 North Lakewood in
2 Chicago, Illinois 60660.

3 ALJ PARROT: Proceed with your testimony.

4 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you. I would like to
5 thank the Ohio Board for allowing this testimony
6 today. My name is Patricia Sharkey. I am testifying
7 here as the policy director for the Midwest
8 Cogeneration Association and the executive director
9 for the Heat is Power Association.

10 MCA is a nonprofit trade association
11 dedicated to promoting clean and efficient
12 cogeneration technologies including combined heat and
13 power or CHP in eight midwest states. We work -- we
14 work with eight states including Ohio. Heat is Power
15 is the national trade association representing the
16 waste heat to power industry.

17 On behalf of our members, we appreciate
18 the opportunity to provide testimony to the Siting
19 Board in this proceeding today. We would like to
20 begin by applauding Ohio State University for its
21 bold leadership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
22 across its campuses for the adoption of an updated
23 and comprehensive Climate Action Plan in April 2020.

24 The plan is both practical and ambitious.
25 It is designed to optimize carbon reductions now and

1 to reduce them further in the future. For the
2 Columbus Campus, it does so in part by investing in
3 state-of-the-art CHP systems. This system will begin
4 operation with natural gas as its fuel.

5 And I would just like to pause for a
6 moment from the testimony that I submitted in writing
7 and say -- make it clear we are not talking about
8 it's been referred to as frac gas or that this is a
9 frac gas plant. To be clear this is a natural gas
10 plant. The source of the fuel is -- of the natural
11 gas is irrelevant to the plant itself. Concerns
12 about fracking are certainly ones that students and
13 others may have a large concern with but this -- this
14 plant and the technology, CHP technology, is fuel
15 neutral. The fact that you are investing in a CHP
16 plant does not mean you necessarily are investing in
17 fracked gas.

18 Continuing then the other opportunity
19 here, of course, has been spoken about several times
20 in the plan is to be able to switch this plant to
21 greener fuels in the future such as hydrogen as those
22 fuels become technically and economically available
23 at scale.

24 Several people today have talked about
25 commercial availability. The Siting application here

1 before the Board projects a 45 percent annual
2 reduction in CO-2 emissions due to the installation
3 of a CHP system which will both serve the campus's
4 electricity requirements and also capture heat to
5 meet the campus's thermal energy requirements.

6 And I would direct the Board's attention
7 to Table 9, page 39 of the application, where for the
8 Board's convenience Table 9 is provided as Exhibit A
9 to my testimony today. The beauty of a CHP system is
10 that it not only generates electricity more
11 efficiently, as the prior witness just testified, but
12 also it's more reliable than central -- centralized
13 utility generation. And it also offsets the need to
14 burn more natural gas to heat building and processes.

15 Importantly, this proposed CHP system
16 will begin reducing the Columbus Campus's energy
17 carbon footprint by 45 percent on day 1, not wait for
18 years until greener fuels are available. As
19 Figure 18 in the Climate Action Plan shows, adding
20 CHP electric and thermal generation to the campus
21 energy plan will immediately and dramatically reduce
22 CO2e emissions by almost 250,000 metric tons in its
23 first year of operation.

24 I would direct again the Board's
25 attention to Figure 18, page 31 of the Climate Action

1 Plan. For the Board's convenience Figure 18 is
2 provided as Exhibit B to my testimony today which was
3 previously submitted. Figure 18 also shows this
4 system will continue to outperform all other options
5 year after year all the way through 2050.

6 This is even true when comparing CHP
7 system CO₂e reductions to increasingly green grid.
8 It is also even true if the CHP system is not
9 switched over to hydrogen or another renewable fuel
10 within the anticipated time frame. Why does CHP
11 systems fueled by natural gases result in lower
12 carbon emissions than renewables such as wind and
13 solar?

14 It's a legitimate question. It's a
15 combination of reasons. The first reason is because
16 CHP provides baseload electricity. While wind and
17 solar are intimate resources, if -- if this campus
18 were to rely on wind and solar, it would be required
19 to purchase dirtier centralized grid electricity when
20 the sun doesn't shine or wind doesn't blow.

21 In contrast CHP systems operate reliably,
22 highly reliably 24/7, day in and day out. Indeed
23 modern CHP systems operate reliably 95 to 98 percent
24 of the time. That's far better by the way than
25 centralized utility systems.

1 Second reason that -- that a CHP gas --
2 natural gas plant will result in lower emissions is
3 because CHP provides not only cleaner electricity
4 more reliably than wind and solar by capturing waste
5 heat. CHP also displaces the need to burn additional
6 gas through thermal energy. Put it another way CHP
7 results in two energy outputs for every quantum of
8 fuel consumed.

9 Further, economical renewable thermal
10 energy is currently not available in the market place
11 at the scale needed to serve the Columbus Campus's
12 thermal requirements. Yes, the grid is expected to
13 become greener and cleaner as wind and solar
14 resources increase over the next few decades. But
15 the OSU plan factors that greening into its grid
16 projections, and CHP is still the better option for
17 the environment right now.

18 Further, as mentioned, OSU has designed a
19 CHP system to be fuel neutral, that is, to be able to
20 run on hydrogen or renewable fuels once those are
21 available. Importantly, OSU's Climate Action Plan
22 recognizes there is a time value for carbon
23 reductions. That is because greenhouse gas emissions
24 are cumulative in the environment and the atmosphere,
25 and the tipping point for irreversible climate change

1 is fast approaching. Carbon reductions we can make
2 now have more value to the environment than carbon
3 reductions in the future.

4 This point has been written about
5 extensively in the scientific literature. I would
6 direct the Board to a 2017 article titled "Time Value
7 of Carbon" by Larry Strain for a fuller discussion.
8 My citation to that is provided in my written
9 testimony.

10 I would close by saying the University
11 should be applauded for recognizing the urgency to
12 reduce carbon now and fashion a Climate Action Plan
13 that begins immediately and dramatically ratcheting
14 down carbon emissions with well established CHP
15 technology.

16 For more information on CHP technology, I
17 would direct the Board to a series of fact sheets
18 produced by the Combined Heat and Power Alliance.
19 They have been provided with my cites to those
20 articles, and fact sheets have been provided with my
21 testimony. Briefly, one involves an infrastructure
22 brief and fact sheet. Another is an emission fact
23 sheet, and another is the colleges and universities
24 fact sheet.

25 We urge the Power Siting Board to approve

1 OSU's combined heat and power facility application
2 and thank you for the opportunity to provide this
3 testimony. That concludes my remarks.

4 ALJ PARROT: Thank you, Ms. Sharkey.

5 Are there any questions for this witness?

6 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: No, your Honor.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

9 MS. WACHSPRESS: No.

10 ALJ PARROT: Thank you, Ms. Sharkey.

11 Our next witness is Anagha Velamakanni.

12 MS. VELAMAKANNI: Hi.

13 ALJ PARROT: Hi. How are you this
14 evening.?

15 MS. VELAMAKANNI: Good. How are you?

16 ALJ PARROT: Fine, thanks. Let's see if
17 we can get your video going.

18 MS. VELAMAKANNI: Oh. It says it can't
19 connect to my webcam. Or wait. Is it?

20 ALJ PARROT: I'm not seeing you. If you
21 see the button at the bottom that looks like a
22 camera, if you can click on that, go right ahead.
23 But if not, I am going to ask you to go ahead. We
24 can hear you, so we will keep moving. If you could
25 just raise your right hand for me and let me know

1 when you have done that.

2 MS. VELAMAKANNI: Okay.

3 ALJ PARROT: All right. There you are.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
6 address for the record.

7 MS. VELAMAKANNI: My name is Anagha
8 Velamakanni, and my address is 464 Marfa Circle,
9 Copley, Ohio 44321.

10 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. And please
11 proceed with your testimony.

12 MS. VELAMAKANNI: To begin with, first
13 off, I just want to say good evening. Like I said
14 before, my name is Anagha Velamakanni, but most
15 people know me as Nikki. I am not associated with
16 Sierra Club. I am actually a rising third year at
17 the Ohio State University, and like many others I am
18 here to testify against the proposal in which OSU
19 will construct a new gas power plant.

20 As a member of the OSU community and
21 Columbus resident for most of the year, I believe
22 environmental issues and climate action are crucial
23 to not only the betterment of this city's health and
24 living conditions but also the state's, nation's, and
25 the world's.

1 OSU's pushing this as a part of the
2 Climate Action Initiative. However, this is a
3 deception as they circumvented multiple environmental
4 investigations into -- they circumvented multiple
5 environmental investigations into the impact on
6 surrounding communities' air quality and argued that
7 it was not necessary due to being a public nonprofit
8 institution. Are public nonprofit institutions
9 exempt from investigations on how they impact the
10 very public they claim to serve? Is it right for OSU
11 to build this plant while releasing pollutants into
12 the community in the middle of a respiratory
13 pandemic? Is it correct for OSU to continue harming
14 the community under the mask of a green renewable
15 energy?

16 These questions shouldn't be hard to
17 answer when the climate crisis is ever growing and
18 greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase. These
19 \$1.1 billion could be allocated to greener and more
20 renewable alternatives rather than use in a deal to
21 construct a frac gas plant, but OSU has not
22 considered those alternatives.

23 An argument for the construction of this
24 plant is that it will help reduce carbon emissions by
25 35 percent short term, but the pollutants released

1 will impact the people living near the plant very
2 negatively. Might I remind we are in the middle of a
3 global respiratory pandemic. The deteriorating
4 health of the residents of Columbus is not a just
5 cost to make when greener alternatives could be
6 funded instead.

7 What is the purpose of this plant? A
8 commitment from Columbus is to rely fully on clean
9 energy by 2022. And Columbus was also a city with a
10 huge turnout for the climate strike held in
11 September 2019. This gas plant won't be carbon
12 neutral until 2050. If the city committed to clean
13 energy by 2022, how will this goal be achieved? Many
14 attendees of last year's climate strike were also OSU
15 students. The people of Columbus want cleaner
16 energy.

17 OSU claims that it wants to be a zero
18 waste institution in the near future, yet wants to
19 build a massive gas plant that increases local
20 greenhouse gas emissions and emits carbon dioxide
21 into our community's air. Frankly, I find this
22 hypocritical. In fact, the best long term that
23 shouldn't be limited to OSU or Columbus would be
24 divesting from all fossil fuels.

25 This community wants to survive, survive

1 with clean energy, clean air, and clean environment.
2 A public nonprofit institution should not be a
3 hindrance to this.

4 I request that the Board reject this
5 proposal for the sake of our community. If you
6 choose not to reject, I also request that a second
7 hearing be held due to our extraneous circumstances.
8 Thank you for your time.

9 ALJ PARROT: Thank you.

10 Karen, I have a question. Did I get
11 Nikki's address for the record?

12 COURT REPORTER: Yes.

13 ALJ PARROT: Thank you.

14 Are there any questions for this witness?

15 MS. WACHSPRESS: No, your Honor.

16 MR. ALEXANDER: No.

17 ALJ PARROT: All right. Thank you very
18 much. I appreciate your testimony.

19 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Have a good evening.

20 ALJ PARROT: Our next witness is Thomas
21 Rothgery.

22 MR. ROTHGERY: Hello. Hello.

23 ALJ PARROT: Hello, Mr. Rothgery.

24 MR. ROTHGERY: Can I be seen, and can I
25 be heard?

1 ALJ PARROT: You are being seen and
2 heard. If you would raise your hand for me, please.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
5 address.

6 MR. ROTHGERY: My name is Thomas Donald
7 Rothgery. My address is 165 Alexander Drive, Elyria,
8 Ohio, ZIP 44035.

9 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Please proceed
10 with your testimony.

11 MR. ROTHGERY: Before I begin with my
12 testimony that I prepared, I do have a question about
13 the testimony of Ms. Sharkey who is not an Ohio
14 resident, is not an employee nor a student at the --
15 at the Ohio State University, and is founder of a law
16 firm that has defended multiple now closed landfills.
17 I am wondering why she would be present at a hearing
18 for the Ohio Power Siting Board. It doesn't make
19 much sense why someone who doesn't live in Ohio,
20 doesn't work in Ohio would be present at such a
21 thing.

22 With that stated, I will proceed with my
23 testimony. The proposed Ohio State CHP facility,
24 OPSB Case No. 19-1641-EL-BGN, is an attempt to spit
25 in the face of the city of Columbus, the Ohio State

1 University students, and the general population both
2 presently and in the future.

3 How so? My name is Thomas Rothgery, an
4 undergraduate student at OSU's College of Food,
5 Agricultural & Environmental Sciences. Allow me to
6 lay out in very clear terms the myriad of ways this
7 proposal would be disastrous, if approved.

8 If the proposal to spend untold sums of
9 taxpayer money on this new gas plant is approved,
10 that is a deliberate decision to introduce a new
11 source of emissions to the University during the
12 unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic which I do not have
13 to remind any of you is respiratory in nature. COVID
14 is known to attack the lungs. Studies have shown
15 that areas with more air pollution have higher rates
16 of death to COVID-19. For instance, a study
17 conducted by Dr. Kimberly Terrell at Tulane
18 University entitled "Air Pollution COVID-19, a Double
19 Whammy for African American and Impoverished
20 Communities and Cancer Alley" shows this pattern.

21 Areas with more air pollution have higher
22 rates of COVID-19 death. In fact, a large chunk of
23 the air pollution in the areas studied come from
24 natural gas plants. Even if the COVID-19 pandemic is
25 for some reason disregarded, the destructive

1 consequences that this plant will have on people's
2 health are numerous and will continue for as long as
3 such a plant remains operational.

4 Methane, hydrogen sulphate, toluene,
5 xylene, and benzene are all chemicals known to be
6 released at facilities like the one being proposed.
7 People exposed to toxic air pollutants like this have
8 greater risk of getting cancer, damage to their
9 immune systems, and higher chances of developing
10 neurological, reproductive, developmental,
11 respiratory, and other health complications.

12 I strongly urge the Board reject this
13 proposal on the grounds it would be a danger to
14 public health during the deadly pandemic that haunts
15 us presently and who will remain being a danger to
16 people's health indefinitely.

17 Further, spending public funds on a gas
18 plant is a deliberate decision to invest in an old
19 nonrenewable mode of energy production rather than a
20 new renewable -- in an -- in a renewable energy
21 facility.

22 As stated earlier, natural gas plants are
23 known to emit methane, hydrogen sulfide, toluene,
24 xylene, and benzene. These chemicals degrade the
25 area, the soil, the water. The natural environment

1 surrounding the plants will be saturated with these
2 toxins. Beyond these local and more visible effects,
3 the plant will become yet another site contributing
4 to the worsening greenhouse gas crisis responsible
5 for the rapid warming of the planet.

6 This ongoing crisis has manifested itself
7 in worldwide environmental catastrophes such as
8 massive glacial melts in both of the earth's polar
9 zones, devastating forest fires across the globe, as
10 well as many other crises that have arisen due to
11 rapidly rising temperature and rising sea levels.

12 I strongly urge the Board to reject this
13 proposal on the grounds that it would be a danger to
14 the environmental health of the local area as well as
15 a contributor to a global health crisis.

16 What makes this all frankly very
17 insulting to me is that in every way every group of
18 people with any involvement in this proposed
19 undertaking and every group that could have any
20 concern with the consequences of it would prefer a
21 renewable alternative.

22 This January the Association of Big 10
23 Students voted unanimously, unanimously to pass a
24 resolution which calls for schools to freeze new
25 investments in fossil fuels and develop a timeline to

1 divest from the industry as a whole.

2 The city of Columbus has recently
3 committed to running on 100 percent renewable energy
4 by 2022. A poll conducted last year by George Mason
5 University showed that 63 percent of Ohio voters want
6 more renewable energy while a pitiful, a piecemeal,
7 not significant portion, 13 percent want more natural
8 gas plants.

9 According to another George Mason
10 University poll from April of 2020, 75 percent of
11 registered voters in the U.S. would prefer funding be
12 allocated to renewable energy rather than to fossil
13 fuels. Even the company proposed to be contracted
14 for this plant's construction, the very company being
15 contracted, MG, has committed to doubling its
16 renewable energy output by 2025.

17 By all accounts it appears to me that
18 nobody wants to increase nonrenewable energy. Nobody
19 wants to increase emissions. So who exactly does
20 this proposal serve? Who exactly would this proposal
21 please?

22 I strongly, strongly urge that the Board
23 reject this proposal on the grounds that it is
24 directly contra to the voters both locally and
25 statewide, that it is in direct opposition with the

1 Columbus commitment to run 100 percent on renewable
2 energy by 2022. If universities across Ohio such as
3 the University of Cincinnati, Cleveland State
4 University, University of Toledo, Oberland College,
5 and others were to construct new renewable energy
6 installations, it is shameful that the Ohio State
7 University would construct a gas plant.

8 Accepting this proposal would be a
9 shameful, shameful step backwards, and it will shout
10 loud and clear to the world that OSU intends to
11 anchor itself to the past and not participate in the
12 march forward towards renewable energy so many
13 students, Ohioans, and Americans are very excited
14 for.

15 OSU in the fiscal year 2020 reports as a
16 group of trustees an operating budget of \$7.5 billion
17 in spending while, I am not going to list all of the
18 universities that have constructed renewable energy,
19 the University of Cincinnati reports 1.36 billion as
20 opposed to OSU's 7.5, Toledo 281 million with an M
21 not a B anymore, Cleveland State 248 million. So the
22 claim that a renewable energy facility is fiscally
23 unattainable for the school is insulting to my
24 intelligence because I am able to Google schools'
25 budgets. We have more than enough money. If these

1 schools are capable of it, so are we easily.

2 This proposal, if approved, will be a
3 significant blemish on the image of the Ohio State
4 University, Columbus, and the state of Ohio. Why
5 should public resources be used to construct a plant
6 that will be the source of hazardous materials known
7 to cause harm to human health and destroy the natural
8 environment? This will send the message that we
9 don't care about public health. We don't care about
10 environmental conservation and that we don't care
11 about advancing the field of nonrenewable energy.

12 The most shameful part about sending that
13 message would be that entirely misrepresents us. The
14 OSU student body does not want it. The city of
15 Columbus does not want it. Ohio voters don't want
16 it. American voters don't want it. The contracted
17 company has made a commitment to renewable energy.
18 If this proposal is approved, you will be spitting in
19 the face of the majority on every level. You will be
20 deliberately, brazenly rejecting renewable energy in
21 favor of nonrenewable energy knowing that it will be
22 destructive to people's health, knowing that it will
23 be destructive to the natural environment while
24 renewable alternatives are readily available and
25 cheaper in the long term and necessary for the good

1 of the planet. They are overwhelmingly what people
2 want.

3 Strongly, strongly urge the Board to
4 reject this proposal on the grounds it would be a
5 danger to public health, would be destructive to the
6 natural environment. It is counter to the desires of
7 voters, and renewable energy alternatives which do
8 not present any of these problems are readily
9 available and strongly desired. It is imperative
10 that you reject this proposal.

11 If you are still unwilling to do so after
12 all of this decent from the community, after all of
13 the evidence presented to you showing the immense
14 harm that this proposal will cause, then you must
15 hold a second hearing that is not during a time of
16 unprecedented turmoil and inaccessibility, during
17 global protests, during a pandemic, during summer
18 when there are no students at school to discuss this
19 with one another.

20 Reject the proposal and if you can't do
21 so, hold a second hearing. That is all for me.

22 ALJ PARROT: Thank you.

23 Any questions for Mr. Rothgery?

24 MR. ALEXANDER: No, thank you.

25 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Thank you very much.

1 We appreciate your testimony this evening.

2 Rachel Wagner.

3 MS. WAGNER: Hi. Can you hear me?

4 ALJ PARROT: I can hear you and see you.

5 (Witness sworn.)

6 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
7 address.

8 MS. WAGNER: Rachel Wagner, 36 Auburn
9 Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43205.

10 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Go ahead with
11 your testimony, Ms. Wagner.

12 MS. WAGNER: Thank you, everyone, for
13 being here and listening to what people have to say.
14 OSU's proposal to build this gas plant as part of
15 their Fair Climate Action Plan is happening at the
16 same time as Columbus's government is proposing their
17 own Climate Action Plan which includes getting
18 renewable energy for the whole community through
19 community choice aggregation, something that will be
20 on the ballot in November.

21 So I can picture a future where Columbus
22 leadership including city council has invested in
23 policies like what I just mentioned which create more
24 demand for renewals like solar and wind, even to the
25 point where new solar farms are being built, maybe

1 new manufacturing facilities are proposed to support
2 the increase in demand for renewables.

3 And yet in this future Ohio's largest
4 university is on a different trajectory toward more
5 reliance on fossil fuels. I understand that the
6 proposal for this gas plant is an attempt to decrease
7 emissions in the short term. I just think we can do
8 much better than this. The economic viability of
9 clean energy is better than ever. Energy efficiency
10 for buildings is making it so we don't use as much
11 energy.

12 The coal industry is in a steep decline,
13 so the utilities of today are going to look different
14 going forward. I know there is a lot of natural gas
15 fracking happening in Ohio and Pennsylvania where I
16 used to live, and while natural gas isn't quite as
17 polluting as coal, there are more methane emissions
18 coming from natural gas extraction than predicted.
19 This is something pointed out by research at OSU's
20 own Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center. These
21 methane emissions are not what we want if we are to
22 take climate change seriously, not even for the short
23 term.

24 To the OSU leadership and others eager to
25 make this gas plant a reality, I would ask that you

1 consider investing hundreds of millions into
2 renewable energy instead. There is a need to build
3 new solar and wind projects locally. This is what I
4 would like to see, especially considering the urgency
5 of climate change, but also in the interest of
6 catalyzing the regional economy by building new clean
7 energy facilities.

8 The industry is growing fast in terms of
9 new generation capacity in the U.S. Renewables are
10 about three-quarters of that right now. So it's like
11 I am asking for this OSU plan to go with the trend of
12 the times. There was a business report from Imperial
13 College London just a month ago that renewable power
14 shares offer investors not only higher total returns
15 relative to fossil fuels but also lower annualized
16 power utility.

17 In conclusion I oppose the construction
18 of the CHP facility that is part of the Climate
19 Action Plan proposed by the Ohio State University. I
20 also ask that there be another hearing so that more
21 people in the local area can join in.

22 Thank you for hearing me.

23 ALJ PARROT: Thank you.

24 Are there any questions for Ms. Wagner?

25 MR. ALEXANDER: No.

1 MS. WACHSPRESS: No, your Honor.

2 ALJ PARROT: All right.

3 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: None.

4 ALJ PARROT: Thank you very much,
5 Ms. Wagner.

6 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Thank you.

7 ALJ PARROT: Our next witness is Lois
8 Hornbostel. Ms. Hornbostel, can you hear me?

9 MS. HORNBOSTEL: Yes.

10 ALJ PARROT: Please raise your right
11 hand.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
14 address for the record.

15 MR. HORNBOSTEL: Lois Hornbostel, 5050
16 Forest Trail, Columbus, 43230.

17 ALJ PARROT: Please proceed with your
18 testimony.

19 MS. HORNBOSTEL: I don't know why my
20 picture isn't on here. I am 81 years old, native of
21 Ohio, and I worked for 42 years in clinical
22 laboratory science. I have been to OSU many times
23 for environmental events and I have learned a lot and
24 I have testified before in support of clean energy.

25 We have no idea now how long the

1 coronavirus pandemic is going to be around. If we
2 add more particulate pollution with what is planned,
3 that will be hard on us, on our lungs. And it is not
4 a good idea, and we need clean renewable energy to
5 save the planet.

6 An official with the National Oceanic and
7 Atmospheric Administration said that the Arctic was
8 undergoing its most unprecedented transition in the
9 human history. The trouble some trends brought by
10 climate change have been intensifying. Investment in
11 local renewable energy are being made in Ohio by
12 other universities. I have testified against
13 fracking with water and dangerous chemicals, releases
14 radioactivity and methane, and methane is a much more
15 potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. And the
16 wastewater from fracking has been discharged into
17 rivers that supply drinking water, and I think
18 somebody has already mentioned the dangerous
19 chemicals that are in the fracking water.

20 OSU should not build a brand new power
21 plant that relies on fossil fuel in the middle of its
22 campus. OSU could sign more power purchase
23 arrangements -- agreements. Ohio in recent years has
24 greatly expanded wind and solar plants.

25 Please have a second hearing so that more

1 people, especially the students, can participate in
2 this. Thank you.

3 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Are there any
4 questions for Ms. Hornbostel?

5 MR. ALEXANDER: No, thank you.

6 MS. WACHSPRESS: No. And thank you.

7 ALJ PARROT: Thank you for your testimony
8 Ms. Hornbostel.

9 Our next witness, I believe, is Nathan
10 Webster.

11 MR. WEBSTER: Hello. Yes. Can you hear
12 me?

13 ALJ PARROT: I can hear and see you.

14 MR. WEBSTER: Sweet.

15 ALJ PARROT: Very good. Please raise
16 your right hand.

17 MR. WEBSTER: Sorry.

18 ALJ PARROT: That's okay.

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
21 address.

22 MR. WEBSTER: My name is Nathan Webster,
23 and my address is 225 Cummings Drive, Painesville,
24 Ohio.

25 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Please proceed.

1 MR. WEBSTER: All right. So I am a
2 rising third year here at Ohio State University. I
3 have no formal association with the Sierra Club, by
4 the way, before the question comes. I actually
5 learned about this proposal through a friend and was
6 motivated to offer my testimony tonight as the face
7 of Ohio State's green proposal and Columbus's
8 green -- commitment to green energy.

9 So the decision to build a brand new
10 power plant in 2020 using natural gas is, I think,
11 incredibly short-sided and irresponsible on the part
12 of Ohio State.

13 As mentioned by a previous speaker, while
14 this is not a fracking plant, even the context of
15 where this natural gas is coming from here in Ohio,
16 it is most likely going to be coming from a fracking
17 plant. And even if it's not, the cost of extracting
18 natural gas is still a harmful one for the earth.

19 Putting that aside fracking specifically
20 as a long-term costs, it's already been shown to lead
21 to harm caused through local well water or local
22 water. It causes millions of dollars of damage to
23 water supplies. It requires clearing forest land.
24 It's an credibly detrimental process that has effects
25 outside of what would be happening directly here at

1 the plant at OSU. And I think by buying into that
2 and allowing that and paying for that power, OSU is
3 really propping that industry up and helping it keep
4 extracting these resources and doing harm to its
5 local communities.

6 But specifically for this plant, it
7 really is going to affect air quality, this natural
8 gas plant, air quality releasing various chemicals.

9 Most of these points have already been
10 hit by other speakers, so I will just briefly go over
11 what I was going to say. The main issue I take with
12 Ohio State's plan here is that this is like a binary
13 choice. I think there is a false dichotomy being
14 presented, being either going with this natural gas
15 power plant or buying energy from the city. As
16 mentioned by Andrea Cohen earlier, it's possible for
17 Ohio State to implement wind turbines as opposed to
18 any of this archaic build. It's not entirely clear
19 how that would happen, but I think that the work
20 should be on Ohio State to understand how they could
21 do that instead of implementing this plant that
22 really does nothing except for bringing harm to our
23 community as I see it.

24 It's not really an investment in the
25 future as I see it because while it's possible for

1 new technologies like green hydrogen covered in
2 research, again as a previous speaker already
3 mentioned, that's sort of a pie in the sky idea.
4 There is no concrete evidence that those technologies
5 will be ready to go to market by the time it's really
6 necessary to output greenhouse gases. I think it's
7 incredibly irresponsible on the part of Ohio State,
8 and as such, I strongly urge you and ask this Board
9 to reject the proposal wholeheartedly.

10 And additionally I understand the Board
11 has been forced to make accommodations due to this
12 pandemic, but I do not believe that the Ohio State
13 student body has been given a fair chance to evaluate
14 this decision, and so I think a second hearing is
15 imperative to keeping this process entirely
16 Democratic.

17 And one more thing I would like to
18 mention, I will yield my time but one thing that I
19 would like to mention, and I think that it's been --
20 those who have come before me and spoken have
21 reiterated the importance of this decision and its
22 impact on our generation and those who are -- this is
23 going to be a long-lasting decision, a very important
24 one, especially to me as I currently attend the
25 University, but for the tens of thousands of other

1 students who will pass through.

2 Therefore, I think it's very important to
3 state for the record that the Chairman here of PUCO,
4 Mr. Sam Randazzo, all respect, has a long public
5 history of opposing sustainable energy, advocating
6 for fossil. Given the nature of this project, I
7 believe this is very relevant to the concerns
8 discussed here tonight, and I really hope that the
9 utility Commission is able to make a well-informed
10 and impartial decision on this matter.

11 I yield my time. Thank you.

12 ALJ PARROT: Thank you, Mr. Webster.

13 Karen, I just want to ask, there was a
14 little bit of choppiness for me. Did you get all of
15 Mr. Webster's testimony? You can just give me a yes
16 nod or a...

17 COURT REPORTER: It was choppy for me
18 also.

19 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Mr. Webster, I'm
20 going to ask if you -- do you have a written version
21 of your testimony?

22 MR. WEBSTER: Certainly, yeah. I could
23 submit that.

24 ALJ PARROT: If you could provide that to
25 the Board and that way we'll make sure we have a full

1 and accurate representation of your comments.

2 MR. WEBSTER: Sure.

3 ALJ PARROT: And that address is
4 contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov.

5 MR. WEBSTER: Certainly.

6 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Are there any
7 questions for Mr. Webster?

8 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: I have a question.

9 ALJ PARROT: Mr. Chairman.

10 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Mr. Webster, thank
11 you for your testimony. In the event that the Board
12 would do as you have requested, and that is reject
13 this project, what would happen? What is the
14 alternative that Ohio State has evaluated for
15 purposes of satisfying the thermal requirements on
16 campus as well as the electricity requirements? Do
17 you know?

18 MR. WEBSTER: I know that currently they
19 are already buying power from -- they are already
20 buying power from the Blue Creek Wind Farm. They've
21 been doing so since 2010.

22 No, but it is -- what I am saying is not
23 that they have figured out an entire alternative. I
24 am just saying this plant goes against what they are
25 doing, and I think it's possible for them to research

1 and find other alternatives.

2 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: I understand that's
3 your position.

4 MR. WEBSTER: Yeah.

5 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: I understand that's
6 your position. How -- what is the alternative to
7 satisfying their thermal requirements? If you know.
8 If you don't know, just say so.

9 MR. WEBSTER: Certainly I do not know off
10 the top of my head what the current alternatives that
11 have been researched by Ohio State. I know that
12 there currently are alternatives such as wind and
13 solar power, and I know that it would be possible to
14 build and implement batteries for them, but I do not
15 know what Ohio State has done on that specifically.

16 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Yeah. So we are
17 clear in my question, I was asking about the thermal
18 requirements.

19 MR. WEBSTER: Right.

20 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Okay? All right.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. WEBSTER: I do not know. Thank you.

23 ALJ PARROT: Any other questions?

24 All right. Hearing none --

25 MR. ALEXANDER: Your Honor, I did just

1 have one. Mr. Webster, are you associated with any
2 organizations on Ohio State's campus?

3 MR. WEBSTER: No, not really. I am just
4 a student here. Why?

5 MR. ALEXANDER: I was curious as to how
6 you found out about this hearing.

7 MR. WEBSTER: I was just informed about
8 it by a friend.

9 MR. ALEXANDER: Okay. So no organization
10 sent --

11 MR. WEBSTER: No, I was not sent in any
12 official capacity by an organization, no.

13 MR. ALEXANDER: You added official
14 capacity there.

15 MR. WEBSTER: Yeah. No, I wasn't sent in
16 any capacity. Sorry. I just wanted to make that
17 clear. I have no association with any organization.
18 I am not advocating for anyone tonight except for my
19 own beliefs.

20 MR. ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. WEBSTER: No problem.

22 ALJ PARROT: Thank you, Mr. Webster.

23 All right. Our next witness is Evan
24 Amber.

25 MR. AMBER: Hello. Can you hear me?

1 ALJ PARROT: I can and I can see you as
2 well. Mr. Amber, if you could please raise your
3 right hand.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
6 address.

7 MR. AMBER: My name is Evan Amber, that's
8 A-M-B-E-R. I live at 521 Harley Drive, No. 3, in
9 Columbus, Ohio 43202.

10 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Please proceed
11 with your testimony.

12 MR. AMBER: All right. To start I thank
13 you, Judge Parrot, the Chairman, and the Board for
14 giving me the opportunity to testify today. I am an
15 OSU graduate student not affiliated with the Sierra
16 Club or other groups to preempt that question, and I
17 oppose the plans to build this plant.

18 Before I begin my prepared testimony, I
19 question Ms. Sharkey's statement that reigning
20 technologies don't work when the sun don't shine or
21 the wind doesn't blow. Surely it is understood by
22 her and other experts that power can be and is stored
23 for use during off hours and load generation periods.
24 The power doesn't just shut off because of a few days
25 of cloud or low wind. This is an erroneous argument

1 often relying on scare tactics rather than sound
2 science.

3 Further, I question that green technology
4 isn't ready. Just from poking around on Google, it
5 appears that the prevailing idea is quite the
6 opposite. Considering that this plant will lock us
7 into natural gas for the long term and will soon be
8 outdated, investing in a ready and rapidly improving
9 sector makes more sense.

10 Now I will begin my prepared statement.
11 Participants who have already testified have done an
12 excellent job in discussing their opposition to the
13 proposed plan due to the conflicts with the Ohio
14 State University's environmental and sustainable
15 commitments, issues to public health, contribution to
16 climate change, and the availability of financially
17 viable alternative options right now, not just to
18 come.

19 I agree with these perspectives, but for
20 the sake of time, I will not go into these issues
21 further. Rather, I want to touch on two subjects.
22 First, I encourage the Board to reconsider the broad
23 and long-term economic impacts of this plant, some of
24 which have been pointed out in Mr. Larcey's earlier
25 testimony. Fossil fuels are often low cost

1 initially, but their operating and extraction costs
2 increase over time. Green energies rather follow
3 more conventional investment valuation and that
4 greater investment leads to lower costs over time and
5 with scale and they are becoming cheaper every year.

6 Further, natural gas is often evaluated
7 based on the costs at initial extraction. However,
8 true costs can be much higher when you consider
9 environmental degradation and, thus, cleanups or
10 mitigation, health costs to the community and
11 hospitals, increased vehicle traffic and the
12 associated road repairs and added pollution, and the
13 devaluation of property in the areas.

14 I'm concerned the economic evaluation of
15 this plant is focused on the cost of the plant itself
16 and its perceived benefit to OSU but not the broader
17 economic ramifications for the entire area. I
18 believe that investment into green energy solutions
19 will prove to be much more economically sound in the
20 long term.

21 My second point is that I do not believe
22 that the average OSU student or employee is aware of
23 these very significant and impactful plans. I myself
24 only became aware after a message from Victoria who
25 testified earlier. This message was not a formal

1 message from our OSU leadership or President Drake
2 but a result of our own activism. However, even with
3 her best efforts, the notice was very short and none
4 of the graduate students who I spoke to just this
5 morning were aware of the plant.

6 Further, despite attempts to reach some
7 undergraduate groups by Adam who testified earlier, I
8 highly doubt that most students or employees are
9 informed, especially in light of COVID-19
10 understandably dominating OSU's communications above
11 all else.

12 I respectfully ask the Board to consider
13 a second hearing after OSU has thoroughly notified
14 its community to allow those who will be directly
15 affected by this plant to voice their opinions.

16 With that I will end my testimony, and I
17 thank you all again for this opportunity.

18 ALJ PARROT: Thank you, Mr. Amber.

19 Are there any questions?

20 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: No, thank you.

21 ALJ PARROT: Thank you very much.

22 MS. WACHSPRESS: No, thank you.

23 ALJ PARROT: Our next witness is
24 Katherine Thompson.

25 MS. THOMPSON: Hello.

1 ALJ PARROT: We are getting quite a bit
2 of feedback.

3 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: You're muted.

4 ALJ PARROT: The feedback is gone, but
5 now I can't hear you.

6 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: And you're muted.

7 MS. THOMPSON: Is it working all right
8 now?

9 ALJ PARROT: Yes, very good.

10 MS. THOMPSON: Sorry about that.

11 ALJ PARROT: That's no trouble. If you
12 could please raise your right hand.

13 (Witness sworn.)

14 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
15 address.

16 MS. THOMPSON: Katherine Thompson, I live
17 at 1811 King Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43212.

18 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Please proceed
19 with your testimony.

20 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you. Thank you for
21 the opportunity to speak with you today. I would
22 like to formally state my opposition to the building
23 of this plant. I am not associated with the Sierra
24 Club or any other environmental group on OSU's
25 campus. I am a concerned citizen, and I am a

1 graduate student in clinical counseling here at OSU.
2 I serve as president of the OSU Chapter of Counselors
3 for Social Justice, and I work with Harm Reduction
4 Ohio, a nonprofit that addresses the opioid epidemic
5 in urban and rural Ohio.

6 More importantly, my family hails from
7 Appalachia Ohio and West Virginia where lower
8 socioeconomic status communities have been negatively
9 affected by the business of natural gas. Because of
10 my familial background and my work, I have seen
11 firsthand how fracking practices have exploited lower
12 socioeconomic communities. Hydrofracking, pipeline
13 construction, and well drilling have left Appalachia
14 Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania in
15 environmental and health crises.

16 According to Freshwater Accountability
17 Project, Ohio communities near fracking locations are
18 presenting symptoms such as rashes and illnesses that
19 are believed to be caused by exposure to fluid
20 chemicals used in drilling. These chemicals have
21 been found in landowners' drinking water. The same
22 source details their concern that radium will
23 eventually migrate into water sources increasing
24 leukemia cases.

25 According to the Union of Concerned

1 Scientists, exposure to elevated levels of air
2 pollutants leaked through drilling and extraction
3 practices can lead to adverse health outcomes
4 including respiratory damage, heart disease, and
5 cancer.

6 A study conducted by the EPA in 2013
7 found that residents living less than a half a mile
8 from drill sites and gas well sites were at greater
9 risk of health effects from the pollutants of natural
10 gas development than those living further away from
11 these sites.

12 The big business of natural gas is the
13 continued practice of oppressing disadvantaged
14 communities. This is not only an environmental
15 issue; this is a social justice issue. Investing in
16 natural gas practices is environmental violence that
17 leads to physical and economic tragedy for
18 communities less likely to have the means to
19 effectively fight against their oppressor.

20 By continuing with its plan to build this
21 power plant, Ohio State will openly -- will be openly
22 in support of the exploitation and oppression of
23 lower socioeconomic status communities that are
24 suffering mentally and physically from the effects of
25 fracked oil. Ohio State will be merely another

1 company that is culpable for the deterioration of
2 rural land and the communities that inhabit them,
3 choosing exploitation for immediate gain over the
4 future which is supposedly antithetical to the role
5 of the university in our society.

6 Thank you for your time and for the
7 opportunity to share.

8 ALJ PARROT: Thank you, Ms. Thompson.
9 Are there any questions?

10 MR. ALEXANDER: No, your Honor.

11 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: None for me. Thanks
12 for hanging around.

13 ALJ PARROT: Thank you, Ms. Thompson.

14 All right. The last witness on our
15 registration list is Aaron Jones. I'm not seeing
16 Mr. Jones.

17 I do have a few other individuals. I am
18 going to go ahead and go next to Evan Davies.

19 And also, Mr. Schilling, a note to you,
20 if you could see if you could get Ms. McGlone on the
21 phone, and we will take her then after Mr. Davies.
22 Just a minute here to get Mr. Davies unmuted.

23 MR. DAVIES: Okay. Can you hear me?

24 ALJ PARROT: I can hear you.

25 MR. DAVIES: Okay. I'm sorry, but

1 unfortunately I don't have working video on this
2 computer.

3 ALJ PARROT: That's fine. If you could
4 just assure me that you are raising your right hand.

5 MR. DAVIES: Yep.

6 ALJ PARROT: All right.

7 (Witness affirmed.)

8 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
9 address for the record.

10 MR. DAVIES: Evan T. Davies at 1432
11 Summit Street, Columbus, Ohio 43201.

12 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Please proceed
13 with your testimony.

14 MR. DAVIES: Okay. So we've had this
15 hearing for almost three hours and so far only one
16 person has given testimony saying we should actually
17 build this gas plant and that's Patricia Sharkey who
18 is an out-of-state corporate lawyer that has no
19 connection to the University or to the city of
20 Columbus but has built a career off shielding
21 polluters from liability hoping to escape their
22 responsibility and obligation to society and profits
23 off of the destruction of our planet and helping the
24 worst people in the world escape their social
25 responsibilities.

1 The fact that every student, alumni, or
2 faculty member that has spoken up so far is in
3 uniform agreement on this question shows the immense
4 importance of this issue. We cannot allow the
5 University to expand its commitment to fossil fuels
6 and to keep -- to keep destroying our environment
7 and -- and worsening the quality of life in Columbus
8 the way that it has.

9 The risk of polluting Ohio is one that's
10 too great to bear, and in building this plant the
11 University puts our community, our families, and our
12 health at risk. We can't do anything if we can't
13 breath our air and drink our water. And it's
14 especially disgusting that the University is trying
15 to build this plant for burning dirty fuels during a
16 global pandemic. Gas currently is incredibly
17 dangerous to public health, especially when placed
18 within a highly populated area such as the middle of
19 OSU's campus.

20 COVID should have taught us to renew and
21 increase our commitment to preserving Ohio's public
22 health, but I guess not. None of this is even to
23 mention the existential danger that is -- that the
24 continued burning of fossil fuels puts us in.

25 Now, Carl Sagan wrote in his book

1 "Cosmos," that if we keep on with business as usual,
2 the earth will be warmed more every year. Drought
3 and floods will be endemic. Many more cities,
4 provinces, and whole nations will be submerged
5 beneath the waves unless heroic worldwide engineering
6 countermeasures are taken.

7 We see this book was written in 1980, 40
8 years ago, two decades before I was born, and we see
9 we've known about these chal -- these challenges and
10 the risk that is posed to us by fossil fuels and
11 climate change for this entire time. And we see that
12 Exxon/Mobile, the company responsible for these
13 challenges, or one of the companies, has known since
14 1976.

15 So if the Ohio State says its vision is
16 to be a -- the model of a 21st Century public
17 university, then why don't they start acting like it.
18 Stop investing in technologies we have known were
19 dangerous since the 20th Century and start realizing
20 that we're in the middle of an existential crisis for
21 human civilization.

22 We are put here during a time of
23 unprecedented ecological crisis, and we have to take
24 action now before it's too late. In a time where
25 corporations threaten to torch our planet and burn

1 our environment to the ground, we should expect our
 2 government and University to advocate for us, not put
 3 us into greater peril. And Columbus's new favorite
 4 branding initiative is to call itself the opportunity
 5 city, yet we at OSU are failing to recognize there is
 6 no opportunity on a dying planet.

7 I yield.

8 ALJ PARROT: Thank you.

9 Are there any questions for Mr. Davies?

10 MR. ALEXANDER: No, thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: None, thank you.

12 ALJ PARROT: Thank you very much.

13 Okay. My understanding is that Kathy
 14 McGlone or McGlone is going to join us by phone.

15 MS. McGLONE: Right. Can you hear me?

16 ALJ PARROT: I can hear you.

17 MS. McGLONE: My name is Kathy McGlone.

18 I am with the Columbus Community Bill of Rights.

19 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Thank you. I am
 20 going to ask you to assure me that you have raised
 21 your right hand.

22 MS. McGLONE: Okay. I did.

23 (Witness sworn.)

24 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Now, I am going to
 25 ask you to state your name and address for the

1 record.

2 MS. McGLONE: Okay. My name is Kathy
3 McGlone. I am at 4753 Widner Court, Columbus, Ohio
4 43222.

5 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. Please proceed
6 with your testimony.

7 MS. McGLONE: Okay. The proposed power
8 plant at Tharp Street and Herrick Drive proposed by
9 OSU is a deceitful disaster waiting to happen. For
10 an institution that is world renowned for their work
11 on climate change, this plan is a contradiction. The
12 35 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions
13 predicted by OSU is very misleading; whereas, it is
14 documented that the burning of natural gas increases
15 carbon dioxide emissions compared to coal.

16 It fails to take into consideration the
17 acquisition, to transport, and waste which is
18 produced by obtaining shale gas. According to
19 Howarth and Dr. Anthony Ingraffea, Cornell
20 University, natural gas is 97 percent methane.
21 Methane is an extremely potent greenhouse gas. The
22 science message from Paris four years ago was we need
23 to move very aggressively away from fossil fuel
24 including not only coal but also natural gas,
25 particularly from shale gas. Methane gas is the

1 Achilles heel of natural gas.

2 OSU has formed the Ohio State Energy
3 Partners which is a collaboration of private energy
4 companies. Which group has paid OSU \$1.015 billion
5 upfront in exchange for the ability to manage OSU's
6 utilities for six years. This influx of large
7 capital makes OSU indebted to the Ohio State Energy
8 Partners.

9 The Ohio State Energy Partners have
10 accomplished making OSU more energy efficient.
11 However, building the CHP plant which will be
12 obsolete in 50 years is not a positive action. It
13 will not add to OSU's sustainability and energy.

14 The structure of the University is
15 changing dramatically. This pandemic has increased
16 online teaching. Why is OSU seeming to build 4,000
17 new resident halls? There have been several reports
18 of leaking methane. The Ohio State Energy Partners
19 are not giving OSU over a billion dollars to be nice.
20 They plan and will make their money back in the 48
21 years remaining in this contract.

22 The proposed construction of this plant
23 is not commonly known. I urge you to have more
24 public hearings when the students have returned and
25 publicize this project so those who would be

1 negatively affected can be heard. Thank you.

2 ALJ PARROT: Thank you.

3 Are there any questions for this witness?

4 MS. WACHSPRESS: No.

5 MR. ALEXANDER: No, thank you.

6 ALJ PARROT: Thank you very much for your
7 testimony.

8 MS. McGLONE: Okay. Thank you.

9 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Next, we have Beverly
10 Reed.

11 MS. REED: Can you hear me?

12 ALJ PARROT: Are you ready?

13 MS. REED: Oh, yeah.

14 ALJ PARROT: Okay. Good. Can you raise
15 your right hand.

16 (Witness sworn.)

17 ALJ PARROT: Please state your name and
18 address.

19 MS. REED: Beverly Reed, 98 5th Street,
20 Bridgeport, Ohio 43912.

21 ALJ PARROT: Thank you. And go ahead
22 with your testimony.

23 MS. REED: Okay. So I haven't read any
24 comments yet from people in Appalachian Ohio, and so
25 I guess I am representing that region. I live right

1 along the bank of the Ohio River in Belmont County
2 which is ground zero for fracking. Belmont County
3 alone has like 680 some permitted frac pads just in
4 one county. And that's representative of the entire
5 Appalachian region.

6 So when you think about the emissions
7 that would need to be created to operate this plant,
8 you have to take into consideration all of the
9 transport trips that would be required for just one
10 frac pad and then times that by however many you
11 would need to fuel this plant.

12 And so the people that support this, have
13 you looked at that? Have you -- have you done the
14 math on that? And also if you support the plant,
15 have you looked at all other alternative energy
16 options? Have you exhausted all of those options?
17 Because the scientists are telling us now that we
18 have to transition now. We can't keep investing more
19 in frac gas, in fossil fuels. So if you looked at
20 all those options first, I would like to see an
21 analysis of that, and if it still doesn't make sense,
22 then that's another conversation.

23 But we can't be saving money or whatever
24 the reasoning is. We need to invest in clean energy
25 now. And we can't use this as an excuse to not just

1 because it's -- we think it's better than coal
2 because I can assure you living here in ground zero
3 of the frac fields is not, okay? It's not better
4 than coal. It's worse.

5 The sound is maddening. I see
6 radioactive frac waste trucks on the highway go past
7 my window every second of every day. I drive behind
8 them. I ride my bicycle behind these radioactive
9 frac waste trucks.

10 The water that is used comes from
11 pristine water sources here in Belmont County. They
12 pull the water from those locations to be used in the
13 fracking process, and then after it's contaminated,
14 they inject it back into the ground into really awful
15 places, places where people go to school and live and
16 recreate.

17 And it's like this industry here in Ohio,
18 and I am sure other states too, but just living the
19 experience of an Ohioan, this industry and our
20 regulating bodies have no regard for human life.
21 They -- they permit these facilities to go in next to
22 daycare centers, next to nursing homes. It's just it
23 never ends, next to schools. So if you permit this
24 plant, you have to think about all of those things.
25 Because solar fields and wind turbines and all these

1 things, all of the alternatives they don't poison
2 people.

3 So please just consider that a voice from
4 the frac fields when you go to make this decision and
5 also we don't want the ethane cracker plant in
6 Belmont County either. We don't want any of this
7 stuff.

8 So thank you very much.

9 ALJ PARROT: Thank you.

10 Are there any questions for Ms. Reed?

11 MR. ALEXANDER: No, thank you.

12 MS. PIRIK: All right. Thank you very
13 much. We appreciate your testimony this evening.

14 Okay. We have been actively monitoring.
15 There were just a couple individuals that were not
16 available at the time the name was called and we've
17 been monitoring those to see if any of them have
18 joined us. And at this time it does not appear that
19 we have anyone else.

20 I am going to pause just for a quick
21 moment and make sure we can confirm, but it looks
22 like that everyone who has requested to testify has
23 done so.

24 Okay. Very good. Well, with that I
25 would just thank again everyone so much for your

1 participation this evening. The public hearing has
2 now concluded, and this transcript that our court
3 reporter has so generously been creating for all of
4 us as we've gone through this hearing will be
5 submitted to the Board now for its consideration in
6 this case.

7 Thank you all and have a good evening.

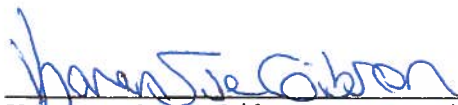
8 (Thereupon, at 9:05 p.m., the hearing was
9 adjourned.

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.



Karen Sue Gibson, Registered
Merit Reporter.

(KSG-6926)

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Summary: Transcript in the matter of The Ohio State University hearing held on 06/30/20 electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Gibson, Karen Sue Mrs.