

Michael Moore

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Letter **OPPOSING new plant**
in 19-1641-EL-BGN

Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board and the wider
Public Utilities Commission –

My name is Michael Moore. I am an alumnus of Ohio State, a long-time resident of Columbus, an educator, and a caregiver as a licensed massage therapist in the state of Ohio.

As a community member, I am very concerned for the rushed and ill-informed decision to put a new fossil power plant in the middle of our community.

Because Ohio State and their for-profit partners claimed their exemption to minimize research into the health impacts on residents, we do not know exactly what will happen to us, in an already poor-air-quality part of the nation. And because Ohio State did not bother to investigate alternatives like solar and wind power – alternatives that have become strikingly effective and affordable over the last few years – we do not know exactly why a gas power plant is the best choice.

As a leading research university in the country and the world, the distinct choices to avoid research are alarming. The recent exposure of dramatic levels of corruption into other efforts to support power companies over the people should make us all exceptionally skeptical.

As a climate activist, I know any new fossil fuel power plant is another step towards the end of life as we know it.

I know the Sierra Club is already outlining many details around these environmental impacts. I support their arguments and won't reiterate their evidence. I will note that in fact, the argument is ultimately simple – we are already late in turning away from fossil fuels and saving a livable planet for the future. There is absolutely no excuse for building any new fossil fuel power plants, especially in a wealthy nation and by a large institution that have every opportunity to use different energy sources. The city of Columbus in which the university sits is right now demonstrating that relying on renewables is possible by pursuing 100% renewable energy for 2022.

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The mission of the PUCO includes the safety of residents and businesses, reliability of the power system, and fostering competition.

- This new power plant threatens the local safety of residents and businesses by limiting pollution evaluations.
- It threatens the long-term safety of all the residents and businesses of Ohio by extending the use of fossil fuels when fossil electric generation is one of the very largest contributors to the climate crisis.
- It threatens the reliability of the power system by increasing reliance on fossil fuels when the entire fossil industry is near collapse without government subsidies that can be removed at any time.
- And it subverts competition by avoiding any competitive analysis of wind and solar energy, which are the sources whose affordability is not only competitive today but increasing the fastest.

It is clear that this proposed power plant does not serve the people of Ohio or the mission of the Public Utilities Commission, and I ask that it be rejected.

Sincerely,



Michael Moore

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