

Good evening to everyone, my name is Anagha Velamakanni. Most people call me Nikki, since it's easier. I am a rising third year student at the Ohio State University. You may recognize me; I spoke at the first hearing, and my stance has not changed since then. I am here to testify against the proposal in which OSU will construct a new gas power plant. Since the last hearing, the word about this fracked gas plant has spread to a lot of OSU and Columbus residents, a lot of them being students, and my understanding is that there are a lot of new faces here tonight. OSU's plan to pass this as secretly as possible looks like its toppling. In my last testimony, I said the people of Columbus and the students of OSU do not want this plant to be built. My argument is supported since there are so many people who will directly be impacted by this plant testifying against it tonight. Today, I'd like to share a story about the climate around Columbus. According to a Historical Climatology report conducted \*through\* OSU, the average annual temperature of Columbus has increased by 2.3 degrees F from 1951-2012. The study itself says that these rates are faster than national and global rates. According to the National Weather Service, the average annual temperature in Columbus has increased by 0.27 degrees F from 2013-2019. Now, these numbers may not seem like much until you realize that the national average annual temperature has increased by 1.2 degrees F since 1986, and the global temperature has increased at an average rate of 0.32 degrees F since 1981. These supposed "insignificant" changes in temperature can cause extreme weather patterns, such as extreme cold, heavy rain, warmer and drier summers. These extreme weather conditions affect all those living in an area of impact, ESPECIALLY those in low-income groups. Why are annual temperatures increasing so much, so quickly? According to PublicHealth, most climate experts agree that a main factor in this temperature spike is greenhouse gases. Now, we come full circle. A main pollutant of this gas plant is greenhouse gases. These gases are a factor in climate change by trapping heat, and are a main cause for respiratory problems and air pollution, Once again, I remind you that we are in a GLOBAL, RESPIRATORY, PANDEMIC. Looking at the studies conducted through OSU, how can they agree to emit more pollutants that will decrease air quality while arguing for "zero waste" by 2022, paralleling Columbus' commitment to clean energy by 2022? Has OSU even looked at greener alternative initiatives? If they have, why haven't they invested their money in THOSE initiatives rather than the one that will harm the community? Does OSU prioritize people or profit? Does OSU prioritize environmental health or dollar signs? If they prioritized environmental health and people, they would halt their efforts to construct this gas plant. I go back to the argument I stated in my previous testimony. As a public, non-profit institution, they claim to serve and uplift the community. But who is this gas plant serving? The common person? The students? Or is it serving the executives? So many students and residents are speaking out in majority opposing this proposal. Other universities around Ohio with smaller budgets are investing in greener alternatives. It's shameful, it's embarrassing that Ohio State is not willing to find more sustainable initiatives or follow in the example of other institutions around the state. If a world-renowned institution like OSU shys away from making commitments to sustainable energy, who else can we expect it from? There is an argument that natural gas is a "cleaner" form of energy, but the process to extract this natural gas-- fracking-- is in fact very unclean. How much carbon dioxide would be released into the atmosphere for this gas plant to run? How much would OSU's carbon footprint increase as a whole? OSU is a distinguished research institution, where multiple studies of sustainability and green energy have been conducted. It's quite frankly very confusing for me as an OSU student to see this disconnect between research and implementation. The world is on fire, there is a pandemic, there is civil unrest. If anything, institutions should be implementing initiatives to help decrease

this turmoil, rather than increase it. I request that the board reject this proposal, and if you choose not to reject, I strongly push for a third hearing. Thank you for your time.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**8/5/2020 10:04:36 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 19-1641-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment of Anagha Velamakanni, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing