

From: [Roka, Lizzy](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: Comment for Case 19-1641-EL-BGN
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Attachments: [CCWA Comment for Case 19-1641-EL-BGN.pdf](#)

Attached is the joint written testimony by the Executive Board Members of the Ohio State University's Collegiate Council on World Affairs.



Elizabeth Roka

The Ohio State University
Honors Arts & Sciences | Political Science | Geography
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Pronouns: she/her/hers

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Comment for Ohio Power Siting Board Case 19-1641-EL-BGN
Testimony of the Collegiate Council on World Affairs
August 12, 2020

Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board,

As the Executive Board of The Ohio State University's Collegiate Council on World Affairs (CCWA), we are writing to you today to express our firm disapproval of the combined heat and power (CHP) gas plant proposed for construction on our main campus and urge you to deny the university's application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

CCWA is the university's premier undergraduate world affairs organization. With over 100 members, CCWA is one of the largest student organizations in the Political Science Department. We are dedicated to promoting knowledge on global politics, international social issues, and the actions and policies of the United Nations.

Among the UN protocols we emphasize in CCWA are the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) signed in 2015 by all UN Member States, including the United States. When the SDG's were adopted, UN Member States committed to promoting clean energy, building sustainable infrastructure, and taking urgent action to combat climate change. These duties are not only entrusted to the United States Federal Government, but also to the institutions that make up this nation. As one such institution, The Ohio State University is failing in this duty.

The construction of a fracked gas-fired power plant at Ohio's flagship university is a flagrant defiance to our international commitment to climate change goals, as well as to the university's commitment to the well-being of OSU students and community members. Fracked gas plants emit harmful greenhouse gases that contribute to worsening both climate change and the health of nearby residents. The building of this plant—during a respiratory virus pandemic, no less—reveals the university's complete lack of care for the health of its faculty, staff, and students. This is compounded by the fact that there has been no analysis, no evidence, and no published research to show that the university has made any attempt to determine the comprehensive environmental impact of their proposal or even considered more environmentally conscious energy sources.

There may be a misconception that OSU students are indifferent to or even in favor of the plant's construction. However, we are writing to you today to disprove that. We are disheartened that our university, which is in fact, a research-based institution, is pursuing this kind of energy plan without conducting the proper research or analysis. We are ashamed that our university is willing to spend an estimated \$278 million on this project, but is not willing to look into more sustainable alternatives. Students at Ohio State are taught to be conscientious citizens and to be active in the fight against climate change, and yet the university still plans to pour millions of



dollars into a project that will commit the university to fossil fuel dependence for at least the next 10 years. And if the OPSB chooses to hold a third public hearing on this case while students are actually on campus, we are sure you will find this sentiment to be widely held throughout the Ohio State student body.

The students of the Collegiate Council on World Affairs have little confidence that the university is proposing this plant with our best interests at heart. But we look to you, our government officials, to ensure that OSU fulfills its civic duty as a land grant institution in prioritizing the needs of their students and the needs of the Columbus community. Therefore, we, the Executive Board of CCWA, request that the OPSB reject OSU's application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

Sincerely,
The Executive Board of CCWA

Elizabeth Roka, President
Emily Needham, Vice President
Ryan Ackerman, Director of Finance
Kerica Bucks, OSU Model United Nations Secretary-General
Hayden Bidinger, Recruitment Chair
Claire Carmi, Director of Marketing
Neha Checka, United Nations Association President
Asha Edmondson, Executive Secretary
Mahika Mushuni, Director of Outreach
Anthony Perrins, Senior Head Delegate
Max Vore, Director of Membership

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Summary: Public Comment of Elizabeth Roka and the Executive Board Members of the Ohio State University's Collegiate Council on World Affairs, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing