

**From:** [Young Democratic Socialists of America OSU Chapter](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** Comment for case 19-1641-EL-BGN  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 3:41:35 PM  
**Attachments:** [Formal Letter to PUCO.pdf](#)

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Attached the Young Democratic Socialists at Ohio State's letter to the Ohio Power Siting Board in regards to a third public hearing for The Ohio State University's proposed Combined Heat and Power Plant.

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Comment for Ohio Power Siting Board Case 19-1641-EL-BGN  
Testimony of YDS at OSU  
August 22, 2020

To the members of the Ohio Power Siting Board,

Young Democratic Socialists at Ohio State (YDS at OSU), as a student organization, strives and struggles to improve the emotional, intellectual, and material living conditions of those in our own and other's community, both in the short and long term. This belief and our work, puts us in stark opposition to the proposed Combined Heat and Power Plant on OSU's main campus, and we enthusiastically call for the proposal to be rejected. At the very least we urge the board to hold a third hearing now that students are back in the campus area and tuned into campus issues (or in the case of virtual education, focused on OSU from near or far) and ask that they strongly consider the many affordable and far more sustainable alternative energy sources that could be used.

YDSA, as an organization, chooses not to shy away from topics that are incredibly daunting, and factual. One such topic is the ever-present climate crisis, and the increasing threat from rising global temperatures, to both our Buckeye and global communities. Gas plants, like the one that OSU is claiming to be "natural" (or not), will still be emitting harmful particulate matter into the surrounding communities where the gas is collected via fracking and where it will be used on campus.

We would also like to extend our sincerest of disappointments towards the Board for choosing to hold hearings, during an international respiratory pandemic (which, it should be noted that it is unprecedented, similar to aforementioned climate *crisis*), solely in the summer term, when most Students have no time, desire, or ability to focus on the happenings of their second home. It would appear the Board, OSU, and Elena Irwin from the Sustainability Institute (but speaking as a private individual, of course), have made no attempt to make any aspect of this proposal known to the general public, with no exception to the numerous red flags involved with the proposal's entire process. It has frequently been claimed that OSU is a public institution, therefore any construction undertaken is a public service, and need not adhere to the standard environmental regulations and investigations, as it must be good, OSU wouldn't build it otherwise. This circular logic, to an organization that fights to have truth and empathy present in the culture of Campus, is sickened by the apparent indifference of so many involved with such a long term, expensive, and damaging decision.

YDSA would also like to specifically condemn the treatment of multiple of our non-binary students and community members by Chairman of the Board Sam Randazzo. At the previous hearing, he smirked and chuckled to himself when valid, valuable, and extremely passionate students shared their preferred pronouns, and expressed their identities. It is horrid to see the Board indifferent at the communal health level, and maliciously frivolous with individual student's Identity and validity.

As a unified group, YDSA is in firm opposition to this plant, seeks to have the board reject the current proposal in favor of actual sustainable and economic alternatives, and at the very least hold a third hearing and attempt to make the student body, and surrounding community of Columbus (which it has been repeatedly stated is committed to a fully renewable power grid by 2022) aware of this proposal. Be good neighbors, be good elders, be good people, and reject this regressive and counter-intuitive proposal for a combined heating and cooling, *fracked* gas plant, on OSU's main campus.

The Executive Board and Members of YDSA,

James Fisher  
Co-Chair



Daija Kidd  
Co-Chair



Connor McCulloch  
Treasurer



Anagha Velamakanni  
Secretary



Ricky Vehar  
Social Media Manager



Adam McCarthy  
Member



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

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Summary: Public Comment of Young Democratic Socialists at Ohio State University, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing