

**From:** [Matthew Butler](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment for 20-1605 [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0cEF1t:ref ]  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 3:37:06 PM

---

My husband and I built our house on 37 acres on Zurmehly Rd., Lima, 33 yrs. ago, investing a significant amount of time, money and heart over the years with improvements and maintenance to keep it a beautiful credit to the Shawnee area as well as for our own pleasure. Now imagine this is you, counting on living here into your old age and if/when the day comes when you can no longer manage the property and need to sell, having to settle on much less to live out your life because of devaluation of your property due to an adjacent solar field.

We thoroughly enjoy watching the wildlife daily. Again, we ask you to envision yourself in this situation, facing the loss of these experiences because now there's a tall fence to the south, preventing wildlife movement.

We don't claim to understand the thought process of your Board when faced with a request like the one from Lightsource bp for the Birch Solar farm in Allen/Auglaize Counties but we do feel it is your responsibility to consider the quality of life in the densely populated community that would be surrounded by this solar field. Once again, we ask you to personalize this by picturing yourself living near or next to a solar field. Would you consider your quality of life unchanged or enhanced?

We've heard the benefit of tax dollars for the schools from the Solar Birch project, albeit unconfirmed, not specific and not guaranteed. Beyond that potential benefit, we are not aware of anything that could be considered a positive outcome for this community. Like many others have stated and in addition to what's been shared above, we are concerned about the visual attraction to others looking to join our neighborhoods, resale of homes, health concerns re: leakage of chemicals into the ground water, loss of good farm land, maintenance of the property, and ultimate clean-up of the acreage when the project is no longer viable and operational.

We do understand that renewable energy needs to happen. But we also understand that there are other sites out there, brown areas, as we've come to learn. It seems that THIS area is desirable because it's more convenient and less expensive for the company because of its location to electrical substations. Approval of this project then tells me that the company's convenience and profit trumps the citizens that have built and sustained the area for generations.

We find it beyond troubling that our elected government officials are stripped of power from the approval process for a project like this but I implore you to remember the human factor if/when you are called upon to consider the permit request for this project.

Respectfully,

Mike & Sheila Keller 

ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0cEF1t:ref

**CAUTION:** This is an external email and may not be safe. If the email looks suspicious, please do not click links or open attachments and forward the email to [csc@ohio.gov](mailto:csc@ohio.gov) or click the Phish Alert Button if available.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**11/18/2020 4:01:48 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 20-1605-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment of Mike & Shelia Keller, via website, electronically filed by  
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing