

FILE

Lima / Allen County
CHAMBER
of Commerce

December 2, 2020

20-1605-EL-BGN

Docketing Division
Ohio Power Siting Board
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Ohio Power Siting Board;

The Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce Lightsource bp is a member in good standing.

Lightsource bp is a leader in solar development and America's low-carbon energy transition. Their Birch Solar project will bring additional investment dollars into the community while helping to power area businesses and the local economy. New and established businesses are investing in Ohio and with that investment comes the desire to be able to purchase Ohio power, often with renewable energy requirements. Projects like Birch Solar allow for energy investment and other economic benefits to remain local.

For the Birch Solar project, it is estimated that the PILOT program will bring approximately \$2.7 million taxes annually to the community and \$81 million throughout the life of the project. That is in comparison to the less than \$100,000 currently paid in traditional agricultural tax on the project property.

The Birch Solar project will therefore become a major new taxpayer to the community. The PILOT program, if approved, will be distributed as follows:

- Joint Vocational School (JVS) \$4.05M (5%)
- School Districts (local) \$43.74M (54%)
- County \$13.77M (17%)
- Township \$19.44M (24%)
- Total for life of project (approximate) \$81M (100%)

The impact of the proposed PILOT program on school funding is significant; approximately a total of \$1.5 million will be provided to the local school districts annually.

Additional economic investment would include:

- 400 construction jobs, with 80% or more local labor
- \$337 million private capital investment to fund project
- \$4.6 million annual operations budget, primarily spent in region

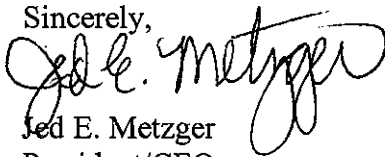
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It is the utmost importance to Lightsource bp that consideration is always given to the health and safety of community members near any project that they develop.

Lightsource bp is a very good corporate company willing to invest in the community and the workforce of our region. Lightsource bp representatives have held several public forums in person and virtually to offer the general public, public officials, and the business community the opportunity to learn more about the Birch Solar Project and give their opinion.

If you have any questions please contact me at my office 419-222-6045 or my cell 419-234-2600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jed E. Metzger", written in a cursive style.

Jed E. Metzger
President/CEO