

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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In the Matter of the :
Application of Ross County:
Solar LLC for a :
Certificate of : Case No. 20-1380-EL-BGN
Environmental :
Compatibility and Public :
Need. :

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

before Mr. Jay S. Agranoff and Mr. Jesse Davis,
Administrative Law Judges, at the Ohio Power Siting
Board, called at 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

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1 APPEARANCES:

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3 By Mr. Michael Settineri
4 52 East Gay Street
5 Columbus, Ohio 43215

6 On behalf of the Applicant.

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Tuesday Evening Session,
April 6, 2021.

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ALJ DAVIS: Good evening, everyone.
Welcome. My name is Jesse Davis, and as you heard,
with me is Jay Agranoff. We are the Administrative
Law Judges in the Legal Department of the Ohio Power
Siting Board. We've been assigned by the Board to
this proceeding which is for Case No. 20-1380-EL-BGN.

One of our duties as the assigned
Administrative Law Judges is conducting a public
hearing in the case which involves the application
filed by Ross County Solar LLC for a certificate to
construct a solar farm in Ross County, Ohio.

Due to the COVID-19 emergency that
remains in effect under Executive Order No. 2020-01D
issued by the Governor of Ohio in March 2020,
tonight's hearing is being held through Webex which
enables interested persons to offer testimony on the
proposed project by telephone or video via the
internet. The hearing is also being live streamed on
our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/user/pucohio](https://www.youtube.com/user/pucohio).

Before we get started with the public
hearing itself, I wanted to just address some
preliminary issues. The first of which is if you

1 experience any kind of technical difficulties or
 2 other kinds of connectivity issues during the
 3 hearing, you have a few options. If your internet
 4 connection drops at some point and you can't get
 5 reconnected through Webex or through the web again by
 6 video, you can participate in the call or -- in the
 7 hearing by dialing via phone 1-408-418-9388 and you
 8 enter a meeting number that is 1798448456. If
 9 neither option is successful, you can call the
 10 Board's Legal Department at (614) 466-6843 for
 11 assistance.

12 And, finally, if you are just wishing to
 13 listen or watch the hearing, you can view the live
 14 stream on the YouTube channel at
 15 youtube.com/user/pucohio by the web, or you can
 16 listen by phone by dialing again 1-408-418-9388 and
 17 you can enter 1798448456.

18 More information about Webex and the
 19 technical help options, that can be obtained through
 20 the chat feature which is available throughout the
 21 hearing. You can click the chat button at any time
 22 to obtain technical assistance or to ask procedural
 23 questions during the hearing.

24 The chat feature is not really to be used
 25 for any other purpose. It's not for commentary about

1 the project that's the subject of the hearing. And
2 please be aware that chats are recorded -- chats are
3 recorded and not part of the official record of the
4 case and should not be considered private.

5 As indicated by the entry dated
6 January 26, 2021, witnesses were required to
7 preregister in order to testify. Individuals who
8 have registered to provide testimony should be ready
9 to speak when we read their name from the
10 registration list. And individuals who are
11 commenting by video will be unmuted by a Board Staff
12 member when it's time for you to provide that
13 testimony. If you're providing testimony by
14 telephone, a Board Staff member will call you at the
15 phone number you provided when it's close to your
16 turn to testify to get everything ready ahead of
17 time.

18 Please bear with us as we work to queue
19 up everyone. It may take some time to do so. Excuse
20 me. It may also divert our attention at times from
21 what is happening in the hearing. If this happens,
22 bear with us and know that we are working to ensure
23 everyone gets their opportunity to provide testimony
24 today.

25 Consistent with the entry of January 26,

1 '21, we do ask that you try your best to keep your
2 testimony to about 5 minutes in length and, if
3 possible, to avoid, you know, repetitive comments.
4 So we also ask that you try your best to avoid
5 unnecessary background noise, so we would ask that
6 everybody participating keep their microphone on mute
7 unless you are commenting. And if you have questions
8 about this process as the hearing's, you know, going
9 forward, you can use the chat function to ask those
10 questions.

11 Does anyone have any questions before we
12 get started?

13 Okay. Let's proceed forward from here.
14 This is to be the more formal part of the proceeding.
15 I am going to hand it over to Judge Agranoff who will
16 get us processed.

17 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, Judge Davis. I
18 appreciate that.

19 The Ohio Power Siting Board has scheduled
20 for hearing at this time and place Case No.
21 20-1380-EL-BGN which is captioned in the Matter of
22 the Application of Ross County Solar LLC for a
23 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public
24 Need.

25 As mentioned before, my name is Jay

1 Agranoff and with me is Jesse Davis and we are the
2 Administrative Law Judges in the Board's Legal
3 Department and we will be conducting tonight's
4 hearing.

5 I would like to note that we also have
6 some Ohio Power Siting Board Staff members assisting
7 us this evening, and they include Micah Schmidt, Jill
8 Kocher, Matt Butler, and Brittany Waugaman who will
9 be overseeing the event on Webex and on YouTube.

10 At this time we will take the appearances
11 of counsel for the parties in this proceeding. On
12 behalf of the Applicant.

13 MR. SETTINERI: Yes, good morning -- good
14 evening, your Honors. On behalf of Ross County Solar
15 LLC, Michael Settineri, the law firm of Vorys, Sater,
16 Seymour and Pease, 52 East Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio
17 43215.

18 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.

19 MR. SETTINERI: Thank you.

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: I would note for the
21 record that although counsel for the Board's Staff,
22 the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, and Buckskin and
23 Paint Townships are not formally participating in
24 this evening's hearing, their clients are parties to
25 this proceeding and may be observing tonight's

1 hearing.

2 The subject of today's hearing is an
3 application filed by Ross County Solar LLC for the
4 purpose of developing, constructing, and operating a
5 new solar-powered electric generation facility of up
6 to 120 megawatts. The solar farm would be located in
7 Paint and Buckskin Townships in Ross County, Ohio.

8 Ross County Solar's application was filed
9 on October 30, 2020. On March 22, 2021, the Board
10 Staff filed a Report of Investigation. This report
11 is a recommendation from the Board's Staff and does
12 not necessarily reflect what the Board's final
13 determination in this case will be.

14 The purpose of tonight's hearing is to
15 receive testimony on the application from the
16 entities and persons in the local community who are
17 affected by the proposed project but who are not
18 parties to this case. The public hearing is not a
19 question and answer session but is the opportunity to
20 let the Board know what you think about the proposed
21 project.

22 Today's public hearing is only one aspect
23 of this case. An evidentiary hearing is scheduled to
24 begin on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, via Webex. The
25 purpose of the evidentiary hearing is for the parties

1 in this case including the Applicant, any
2 Intervenor, and the Board Staff to provide testimony
3 and other evidence regarding the proposed project.

4 Tonight's hearing is being transcribed by
5 a court reporter from Armstrong & Okey. It's
6 Ms. Karen Gibson. If you plan to testify, in order
7 to make Ms. Gibson's job as easy as possible, please
8 speak clearly so that she can accurately reflect your
9 comments on the record. Please make sure that you
10 verbally respond to all questions asked so that they
11 can be properly transcribed.

12 After I finish with this introduction, we
13 will begin calling the witnesses on the registration
14 list of those individuals who previously registered
15 to testify. Each person registered to testify will
16 be permitted to speak once about the project. If you
17 are testifying tonight, we will ask you to take an
18 oath or affirmation that what you were about to say
19 is the truth. Your testimony will then be considered
20 as part of the official record in this case, and it
21 will be reviewed by the Board before a final decision
22 is made about the Application.

23 Additionally, counsel for the parties, or
24 in this case Mr. Settineri, as well as Judge Davis
25 and myself will be permitted to ask questions about

1 your testimony. Should you decide that you do not
2 want to testify when we call your name from the
3 registration, you can simply pass to the next
4 witness.

5 Also once you have finished testifying or
6 if you are here just to observe, you may leave the
7 hearing at any time that you wish. If individuals
8 who are testifying wish to supplement their testimony
9 with an exhibit for the Board's consideration, a copy
10 of the document along with a reference to Case No.
11 20-1380-EL-BGN must be provided to the Board no later
12 than April 13, 2021. The document may be sent by
13 e-mail to contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov or by mail to the
14 Ohio Power Siting Board, 180 East Broad Street,
15 Attention Docketing Division, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

16 For those of you not testifying but who
17 wish to file a public comment regarding the proposed
18 project, you can do so either in writing on the
19 Board's website or by e-mail at
20 contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov or by mail at Ohio Power
21 Siting Board, 180 East Broad Street, Attention
22 Docketing Division, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Written
23 comments should reference Case No. 20-1380-EL-BGN.

24 The Board appreciates your participation
25 in tonight's hearing, and we want everyone who is

1 registered to have the opportunity to testify if they
2 so desire to do so.

3 At this time we are going to begin with
4 the testimony. And, Mr. Schmidt, if you could please
5 promote the first witness who I believe on the list
6 that I have was Ms. Telithia Johnson.

7 MR. SCHMIDT: Ms. Johnson, you've been
8 promoted. If you can enable your audio and video.

9 ALJ AGRANOFF: And I see Ms. Johnson's
10 name but not yet the video. There you are. Good
11 evening.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Good evening. Yes. I'm
13 going to testify.

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. And what I will
15 need to do first before you do so is to have you
16 raise your right hand and I need you to either swear
17 or affirm that the testimony you are about to give in
18 this proceeding is the truth.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Is the truth. I do not
20 want to testify though so I'm still --

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: Oh, you do not want to
22 testify. I'm sorry.

23 MS. JOHNSON: I thought this was for I
24 wanted it to happen, not for it not to happen, so I'm
25 not going to testify. Thank you.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Well, you can testify
2 regardless of the position that you are taking in
3 this proceeding.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Okay. Then I will.

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: Then you are okay
6 testifying?

7 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: All right. You've been
9 sworn in, but I will do it one more time just in case
10 the record doesn't reflect it.

11 (Witness sworn.)

12 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. If you could please
13 state for the record your full name.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Telithia Johnson.

15 ALJ AGRANOFF: And if you could please
16 spell your first name for us, please.

17 MS. JOHNSON: T-E-L-I-T-H-I-A.

18 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And if you
19 could please provide me with your address including
20 the township in which you reside.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. My address is 3919
22 Rosland Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43207, and I am in the
23 Franklin County Township.

24 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. And do you either
25 reside or work within the project area?

1 MS. JOHNSON: No, I do not.

2 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you. And if
3 you could please proceed with your testimony.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. So my -- again, my
5 name is Telithia Johnson. I am founder of Children
6 Arise 21st Century LLC here in Columbus, Ohio. And I
7 am here as a voice regarding this project. Due to
8 No. 4 on the economic impacts of local, commercial,
9 and industrial activities, I believe it will be
10 beneficiary in -- to impact for economically --
11 economic system and for our children here for the
12 21st Century. The school that I am looking forward
13 to is for gifted and special needs with
14 entrepreneurship and STEM.

15 And this will be a beginning step. As I
16 have read up on this project, it started in 2017 when
17 I also began my project for the children for a new
18 school system. I know things have been changed
19 throughout this time, but my mission statement is
20 "Children rise in a program inspired by unique and
21 different" meaning the journey to arise from within
22 them, believing within, and having faith within.

23 And also my mission statement is "You are
24 the project of your own environment." Once you are
25 in that setting, then you are able to do all the

1 things you were created to do. And in this project I
2 feel that it will also help with the agriculture part
3 of where I want to do, as far as the veteran part of
4 rebuilding and growing for our economic system, and
5 it also will build more jobs.

6 So as founder and also leadership council
7 for Washington, D.C., I am just -- just a voice today
8 saying that I am looking forward to this project
9 and -- and hope everything works out to its
10 beneficiary.

11 Thank you for having me today.

12 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you for testifying.

13 Mr. Settineri, any questions?

14 I think you are on mute.

15 MR. SETTINERI: No, your Honor. Thank
16 you.

17 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Thank you very
18 much, Ms. Johnson, for your testimony.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: Next on my list, I
21 believe, Mr. Schmidt, is Christy Barnhart. If you
22 could please promote Ms. Barnhart.

23 MR. SCHMIDT: Ms. Barnhart, you've been
24 promoted. If you can enable your audio and video.

25 MS. BARNHART: Good evening.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Good evening. There you
2 are. Now I can see you.

3 MS. BARNHART: Oh.

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: Hi there.

5 MS. BARNHART: Hi.

6 ALJ AGRANOFF: Welcome to our hearing
7 this evening.

8 MS. BARNHART: Thank you.

9 ALJ AGRANOFF: And if you could please
10 raise your right hand.

11 (Witness sworn.)

12 ALJ AGRANOFF: I couldn't hear your
13 response.

14 MS. BARNHART: I do.

15 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And if you
16 could please state your full name for the record.

17 MS. BARNHART: Christina Barnhart.

18 ALJ AGRANOFF: And if you could please
19 spell your last name for the record.

20 MS. BARNHART: B-A-R-N-H-A-R-T.

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And if you
22 could please provide your address including the
23 township in which you reside.

24 MS. BARNHART: 12551 State Route 41
25 South, Greenfield, Ohio in Buckskin Township.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you either reside
2 or work within the project area?

3 MS. BARNHART: Both.

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And if you
5 could please begin with your testimony.

6 MS. BARNHART: Okay. Our property -- we
7 have concerns because our property is connected to
8 the proposed project. We have environmental concerns
9 for our pets. You know, I'm not super familiar with
10 this, but we have concerns about, you know, our
11 property value going down should, you know. Even our
12 ability to enjoy the nature of our backyard. With
13 solar panels, you know, are we going to have glares
14 from that?

15 We have a lot of concerns in that
16 respect. You know, I just -- I don't know what to
17 expect out of this, but I am concerned definitely for
18 my property value, for the safety of my animals, you
19 know, as to what kind of connection is that going to
20 be. And the wildlife, we are starting to get more
21 wildlife in this area, more deer, a lot more birds,
22 and it's just right adjacent to the property.

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: Anything further?

24 MS. BARNHART: I can't really think of
25 anything else other than my extreme concern for my

1 joy for sitting outside and enjoying nature, and I
2 feel like that is going to be completely taken away.

3 That's really all I have to say this
4 evening. Thank you for your time.

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. I do have a
6 question. Is your property directly adjacent to the
7 project area?

8 MS. BARNHART: Our property lines touch.

9 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

10 MS. BARNHART: Thank you, sir.

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: Mr. Settineri, any
12 follow-up? I think you are still on mute.

13 MR. SETTINERI: There we go. Space bar
14 is not working today. No -- no questions. Thank you
15 very much, your Honor.

16 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

17 Thank you, Ms. Barnhart.

18 MS. BARNHART: Thank you, sir.

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: Next witness I believe
20 should be Patricia Meyers. And, Mr. Schmidt, if you
21 could please promote Ms. Meyers. I believe she is a
22 phone witness.

23 MR. SCHMIDT: Ms. Meyers was originally
24 slated to be a phone witness, but she's connected via
25 Webex.

1 So, Ms. Meyers, I promoted you. If you
2 can enable your audio and video.

3 MS. MEYERS: Can you hear me?

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: I can certainly hear you.
5 I am not yet able to see you. Are you able to turn
6 your video on?

7 MS. MEYERS: I am trying to do that.

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay.

9 MS. MEYERS: Hold on. Let me get backup
10 help. Can I just go voice only?

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: Certainly.

12 MS. MEYERS: Is that okay?

13 ALJ AGRANOFF: That will be fine. I just
14 need you to raise your right hand, please. Let me
15 know when you are there.

16 MS. MEYERS: I am here.

17 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay.

18 (Witness sworn.)

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And if you
20 could please state and spell your full name for the
21 record.

22 MS. MEYERS: Patricia, P-A-T-R-I-C-I-A A.
23 Meyers, M-E-Y-E-R-S.

24 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay.

25 MS. MEYERS: You want the address?

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Yes, please.

2 MS. MEYERS: Okay. 374 Moxley Road,
3 Bainbridge, Ohio.

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you reside in a
5 township?

6 MS. MEYERS: Yes, Paint Township.

7 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. And if you could
8 please give us your ZIP Code as well.

9 MS. MEYERS: 45612.

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And do you
11 either reside or work within the project area?

12 MS. MEYERS: Yes.

13 ALJ AGRANOFF: And which of the two would
14 that be or both?

15 MS. MEYERS: Both.

16 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. If you could
17 please proceed with your testimony.

18 MS. MEYERS: Our front porch is about
19 1,500 feet from the southern end of this project, and
20 we have lived there for over 35 years. I am also --
21 we have so many concerns about this project, several
22 of them like the safety of the panels, the loss of
23 the farmland, the state park which is right beside it
24 with the endangered species that live there. We're
25 starting to get bald eagles that could be affected.

1 There's so many small streams and
2 waterways that flow into Paint Creek, the Scioto
3 River, and down to the Ohio River. There's -- the
4 Greenfield city wells are like about a mile from the
5 northern end of this project.

6 And to place this 1,400 acres of solar
7 panels in one of the most beautiful spots in all of
8 southern Ohio, I believe -- I know you guys have --
9 many of you have never traveled this way. But if you
10 go down Rapid Forge Road, you get to the top of the
11 hill, and you view Buckskin Valley from that point,
12 it is one of the most beautiful spots that I have
13 found in southern Ohio and that's going to be ruined
14 by 1,400 acres of solar panels.

15 And all the traffic that comes to the
16 state park every year to camp, to visit, to have
17 their weekends of recreation, that's the path they
18 drive to the state park. The state park is directly
19 across from this project at the northern end, and it
20 actually touches the northern end too. And to put
21 this next to a state park and these beautiful
22 southern Ohio views and then to have all of these
23 different issues that's not known.

24 Yes, they say the panels are safe, and I
25 am sure that when the uranium plant went in, that was

1 supposed to be safe too. And you can find just as
2 many people saying one way as the other way but what
3 I don't want to do is rob the future of this whole
4 area so that some solar companies can make a lot of
5 money. And it feels like we are in an uphill battle
6 here -- here because there are so many -- the
7 politicians and every state level on down is just all
8 for it. But no one is looking at the children's
9 futures and that's -- that's my concern is like what
10 are we giving our children and our grandchildren,
11 their futures? We are robbing their futures.

12 And as for the property values, I -- our
13 house is not directly across the road, but the people
14 that do live directly across the road or close to it,
15 those are the people that my heart breaks for because
16 there is -- after 32 years of real estate in
17 Greenfield, selling real estate, I am a real estate
18 broker, I know they have done reports and studies in
19 Minnesota and Pennsylvania about the housing market
20 not changing because of the solar farms but I don't
21 know Minnesota or Pennsylvania but I know Greenfield,
22 Ohio, and there's someone else that will be talking
23 soon about that situation.

24 But they're -- they are going to be
25 affected because they are being affected now, and

1 they haven't even broke ground. The property values
2 have been affected. And once they break ground it
3 will even get worse and that's not right for the
4 people that are working jobs trying to pay for their
5 house payments for a house that what's going to
6 happen in a year or two when it's not even worth what
7 they bought it for? That's sad.

8 And it's just sad to do that for the
9 neighbors in the area and the neighbors that are
10 trying to strive and get by and that's about what
11 I -- that's all I have to say. I am very passionate
12 about this because I think it's horrible. My family
13 has been in this area since 1803, and it's just sad
14 that -- that this could happen.

15 So that's all I have to say.

16 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

17 MS. MEYERS: Thank you for your time.
18 Have a good evening.

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: You are welcome. If you
20 can please wait just a couple of minutes until we are
21 sure there are no additional questions. I did just
22 want to make sure I understood the location of your
23 property in relationship to the proposed project.

24 MS. MEYERS: My front door is about
25 1,500 feet from the southern end of the -- the tip of

1 the solar project.

2 ALJ AGRANOFF: But are you adjacent to
3 the project area itself?

4 MS. MEYERS: We have a 9-acre tract that
5 corners with that southern tip.

6 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay.

7 MS. MEYERS: It's vacant land but. And
8 then our house is across the road on Moxley. Can I
9 just add something really quick?

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: Certainly.

11 MS. MEYERS: This -- the whole -- I
12 have -- one good thing about this whole mess is that
13 I have met a lot of neighbors that I didn't know and
14 some that I got to know better. But there are so
15 many elderly people that are affected by this that
16 don't have internet, don't have computers, and these
17 are people that are veterans, that have worked their
18 entire life and are retired, and now they have this
19 in their front door.

20 These are some people that's directly
21 across the road that don't have access to all of
22 these meetings visually or Webex and everything.
23 They don't have that. I'm talking like it's just sad
24 for them. My heart breaks for them because this is
25 their golden years and they can't -- the one elderly

1 man, he said there's no way they would do that. No
2 one -- they won't do that. And, yeah, they want to
3 do that. And that's sad, I mean, to work your entire
4 life and have this in your front door. And it's just
5 sad.

6 So that's all I have to say. Thank you
7 so much for listening to me.

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: You're welcome.

9 Mr. Settineri, do you have any additional
10 questions?

11 MR. SETTINERI: No, no questions, your
12 Honor. Thank you.

13 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

14 Judge Davis, did you have any questions?

15 ALJ DAVIS: No, Judge Agranoff. Thank
16 you.

17 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

18 Ms. Meyers, you are excused.

19 And, Mr. Schmidt, if you could please
20 promote our next witness who I believe is Tosha
21 Freeze.

22 ALJ DAVIS: Ms. Freeze will not be
23 testifying this evening.

24 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

25 ALJ DAVIS: You're welcome.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Mr. Gary Ludwig.

2 MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Ludwig, I see you are
3 connected to the meeting using two different devices,
4 so I hope I got the right one. If you could enable
5 your audio and video.

6 MR. LUDWIG: I am using my cell phone
7 because my computer is really way behind using the
8 wifi system, so I am using my cell phone.

9 ALJ AGRANOFF: Welcome, Mr. Ludwig.

10 MR. LUDWIG: Thank you.

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: And if you could please
12 raise your right hand for me.

13 (Witness sworn.)

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir. If you
15 could please state and spell your full name for the
16 record.

17 MR. LUDWIG: My name is Gary, G-A-R-Y,
18 Ludwig, L-U-D-W-I-G.

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: And if you could please
20 provide for me your address.

21 MR. LUDWIG: That's 5700 Rapid Forge
22 Road, Greenfield, Ohio 45123.

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you reside in a
24 township?

25 MR. LUDWIG: Yes, I do.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Which one might that be?

2 MR. LUDWIG: I live about half a mile or
3 so directly south of the project area.

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. And which township
5 do you reside in?

6 MR. LUDWIG: I am in Paint Township.

7 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And you
8 indicated that you reside about a half mile from the
9 project area?

10 MR. LUDWIG: Yes.

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: Do you work in the project
12 area?

13 MR. LUDWIG: Half mile south.

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. And are you --

15 MR. LUDWIG: I don't have any property
16 that borders directly, but I can see the southern end
17 of the project area from my backyard clearly.

18 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Do you work in the
19 project area?

20 MR. LUDWIG: I work out of my home, yes.

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. So your employment
22 would be also about a half mile from the project
23 area.

24 MR. LUDWIG: Yes.

25 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you. And if

1 you could please proceed with your testimony.

2 MR. LUDWIG: I am going to read a
3 prepared statement based on my opinions of what I've
4 read about the project so far.

5 So I wish to go on record opposing the
6 Ross County Solar project. While I believe that
7 solar energy will continue to gain importance in the
8 nation's energy portfolio, I do not believe that Ross
9 County Solar LLC has exactly explored the negative
10 impacts that this project will have on all the
11 residents in the immediate area.

12 Also I live within a half mile of the
13 project area, as I stated, and while many of my
14 neighbors have been contacted directly or have
15 received letters from the Company informing them of
16 project details, I have never once been contacted by
17 Ross County Solar LLC or any of their representatives
18 to explain what's going on.

19 I find this selective and in my case
20 complete lack of communication with all of the
21 affected neighbors in this area to be very appalling.

22 Let's see, are you able to see me okay?

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: Yes, sir.

24 MR. LUDWIG: Okay. While the Company
25 does an acceptable job of illustrating the benefits

1 of the project to the community at large, they
 2 neglect to explore how the project will affect
 3 neighbors who stand to gain nothing from it.
 4 Specifically the Company fails to address how the
 5 project will affect property values of all the
 6 nonparticipating neighbors.

7 They fail to address the long-term tax
 8 implications for surrounding nonparticipating
 9 landowners. They don't address the loss of more than
 10 1,400 acres of production farmland and the impact
 11 that the loss will have over 30 years on local
 12 agriculture and the individuals and businesses that
 13 depend upon it.

14 Finally, the Company fails to identify
 15 the type of solar panels to be used nor does it
 16 adequately address their plans for recycling
 17 nonfunctioning, damaged, or decommissioned solar
 18 panels. I've heard mention that the Ross County
 19 Commissioners are looking at giving additional tax
 20 breaks to landowners, the sellers and leasers who are
 21 participating in the project. Many of them already
 22 receive tax breaks on their agricultural lands
 23 through the CAUV programs. Many of them have also
 24 received benefits from federal crop subsidies, loans,
 25 insurance programs, as well as direct payments for

1 participating -- participating in land conservation
2 programs.

3 Much of that money that they earned was
4 invested back into the local community. The Company
5 seems to imply that the benefit of the solar project
6 will just be additive to the local economy while in
7 reality they may only offset the agricultural losses
8 or only minimally improve the economic output for the
9 next 30 years.

10 Lost revenues from one sector, say
11 agriculture, are usually made up for by the other
12 sectors, say landowners, and that's usually in the
13 form of increased taxes. We've had no explanation of
14 how us, as nonparticipating landowners, will be
15 affected by any of this project. Depending on which
16 study or expert you believe, solar panels are either
17 toxic to the environment or completely safe.

18 What bothers me is that the Company is
19 hedging their bets while trying to find the cheapest,
20 most profitable solar panels that may or may not be
21 the safest or most recyclable in the long run. Like
22 all production companies they are relying on
23 developing technologies to resolve the recycling
24 issue by the time the solar farm is decommissioned.

25 The problem is the people in charge of

1 this venture figured they would have 30 years for
2 someone to figure it out, long after they have
3 relinquished all responsibility for the consequences.
4 Solar energy production has been around long enough
5 for the recycling issues to be further advanced than
6 they are right now. Hoping things will be worked out
7 tomorrow is a poor reason to proceed with a project
8 today.

9 Now, I understand that all the
10 electricity that we use in our homes today is not
11 generated near where we live. I also understand that
12 the project will feed into the larger power grid.
13 Big electric companies will then buy that electricity
14 and sell it back to us each month.

15 That being said, this project will not
16 benefit me one dime when it comes to my monthly
17 electric bill. AEP will continue to raise my rates
18 at their whim regardless of the solar plant a half
19 mile down the road from me. My electric will
20 continue to spike and go off daily regardless of the
21 solar plant a half mile down the road.

22 And I also find it hard to believe that a
23 facility that on average only produces electricity at
24 22 to 24 percent of its generating capacity annually
25 can be that important of a contributor to the larger

1 power grid. The Company can only do that through
2 quantity and that's why these projects are springing
3 up all over southwest and central Ohio. If Ross
4 County Solar really wanted to help the immediate
5 community, they might start a company that would
6 improve the infrastructure that supplies the power to
7 our homes.

8 They might also look at ways to provide
9 locally produced electricity back to the local
10 community. The solar energy has the opportunity to
11 be an advocate for the consumer. Instead they are
12 choosing the easy route of operating the same as
13 other energy producers and place their profits before
14 consumer needs.

15 Ross County Solar in my opinion is merely
16 an energy speculator. No better than the energy
17 speculators exploiting the oil and gas boom of
18 eastern Ohio where I grew up. Like with the oil and
19 gas boom, the Company's contribution to the local
20 economy will be temporary. We'll be living with the
21 consequences for generations.

22 Thank you for allowing me to testify
23 tonight and that's the end of my prepared statement.

24 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

25 Judge Davis, do you have any questions?

1 ALJ DAVIS: No. Thank you, Judge
2 Agranoff.

3 ALJ AGRANOFF: Mr. Settineri?

4 MR. SETTINERI: No, thank you, your
5 Honor.

6 ALJ AGRANOFF: You're welcome.
7 Thank you very much, Mr. Ludwig, for your
8 testimony.

9 MR. LUDWIG: You're welcome.

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: I believe our next witness
11 is Makenzie Wharton. And Mr. Schmidt.

12 MR. SCHMIDT: Ms. Wharton, you've been
13 promoted. If you can enable your audio and video.

14 MS. WHARTON: Can you hear me?

15 ALJ AGRANOFF: I can hear you, and I can
16 see you.

17 MS. WHARTON: Perfect.

18 ALJ AGRANOFF: Hi there.

19 MS. WHARTON: Hi.

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: If you can please raise
21 your right hand.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. If you could
24 please state and spell your full name for the record.

25 MS. WHARTON: It's Makenzie Wharton,

1 M-A-K-E-N-Z-I, Wharton, W-H-A-R-T-O-N.

2 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And if you
3 could please give us your address including your
4 township.

5 MS. WHARTON: Sorry. It's 6267 Rapid
6 Forge Road, that's Greenfield, Ohio 45123. And
7 that's in Paint Township.

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And do you
9 either live and/or work in the project area?

10 MS. WHARTON: I live.

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you. If you
12 could please proceed with your testimony.

13 MS. WHARTON: I live directly in front of
14 where the solar panels are going to be put. They are
15 like right in front of our driveway. My fiance and I
16 put our house up for sale on March 20, this year, and
17 we were made an offer within 48 hours of our house
18 being put up for sale. By that night after the
19 potential buyer found out about the solar panels,
20 they backed out on us.

21 I've had 10 showings since then for
22 people that were interested in our home. And they
23 gave us all feedback for those. One of our buyers --
24 the potential buyer said the home was great. Our
25 house and location was perfect. Like Patty stated

1 before, the view in front of our house is absolutely
2 breathtaking. It's beautiful. It's rolling hills.
3 It's amazing land and that's one thing why most
4 people are really interested in this property and our
5 home. They said the quality and everything of our
6 house is great, and our home value was a huge concern
7 because of the solar panels.

8 But they said they want our house, but
9 the solar field that will be -- that it will be
10 turned into turned them away immediately. We also
11 had like five or six more buyers that gave the same
12 exact feedback. I mean, one said they were coming
13 there to buy the house because it reminded them of
14 their home at another area, and but they said if
15 there is going to be solar panels, they don't even
16 want to think about buying it.

17 Unfortunately we were kind of the guinea
18 pigs for this to -- for the community to kind of
19 figure out what the -- how it's going to affect our
20 home value. It's honestly being affected, and the
21 solar panels haven't even been approved yet. You
22 know, it's very discouraging. We are a young couple,
23 and it's very unfair. We don't plan to move far
24 away. We plan to stay in the community once we sell
25 our house, if we sell our house; and, you know, we

1 are very concerned about what our children and our
2 grandchildren are going to have to witness within the
3 next 20 to 30 years. What are their plans for the
4 solar panels? What are they going to do with them?
5 You know, how are they going to just like get rid of
6 them and discard them?

7 We are very concerned about how close
8 they are to residential homes. You know, it's going
9 to affect a lot of people on 41, Rapid Forge, Lower
10 Twin, even, you know, like Moxley. It's -- I mean,
11 it's going down the line. Yeah, Paint Creek State
12 Park is directly behind us. It -- I mean, not even a
13 mile maybe away from where this project will be at.
14 There is farmers with nearby farmland. How is that
15 going to affect their land? That's very important as
16 well. They never did think about that.

17 How is it going to affect the future
18 generations in our community? Everybody is having
19 kids, grandkids. How is this going to affect them
20 when they go to buy a home, when they go to sell a
21 home? Because it's obviously already happening to
22 us. People with livestock, multiple people in this
23 community have lots of livestock, pets. There is so
24 much -- things they have to worry about with that
25 like what is going to come off of these solar panels?

1 Like what about the light? Is it going to have a bad
2 glare? There's 1,400 acres of them and the residents
3 are right beside it. Properties are touching
4 directly in front of it.

5 What about driving down the road 41 and
6 there is a glare? Is that going to cause accidents?
7 If they do get approved, who is going to reimburse us
8 homeowners, I am talking in the community, for our
9 property value because we are unable to sell our
10 homes or our value doesn't go up or decrease?

11 I know they mentioned earlier about the
12 wildlife. That's a very good concern. We are very
13 passionate about that as well. Obviously the current
14 and -- the current homeowners in the community, we
15 are kind of showing you right now what is happening
16 with it.

17 Our health concerns for everyone
18 involved, what's going to happen with that? Is there
19 going to be noise off these panels? What kind of
20 noise? It's 1,400 acres. Is it going to produce any
21 heat? They are black. They are very dark. So what
22 is going to come off of those? Is it going to
23 produce a lot of heat in the summertime? What about
24 in the winter time when there is snow? We are in
25 Ohio. Is it even going to produce -- be able to

1 produce the energy it needs? Will it be effective?

2 I guess my questions are -- for them are
3 what are pros that I can tell homebuyers? Because,
4 right now, they just see that it's going to take up
5 beautiful land, and they completely run away.

6 You know, I'm concerned about what size
7 there is. Like what about accidents on the road?
8 What type of fence are they going to put around these
9 solar panels? Environmental erosion? How is that
10 going to affect us? But, I mean, it's even gone as
11 far as causing division in our community between
12 neighbors, I mean, that's lived here for years,
13 that's been friends for years. It has caused
14 problems there.

15 I mean, we are just very concerned, and
16 we just want to see our community stay together and
17 stay with our beautiful land and have our property
18 value stay the same.

19 And I appreciate your time today.

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

21 Judge Davis, any questions?

22 ALJ DAVIS: No, Judge Agranoff. Thank
23 you.

24 ALJ AGRANOFF: Mr. Settineri?

25 MR. SETTINERI: No questions, your Honor.

1 Thank you.

2 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Mr. Settineri,
3 to the extent that individuals have specific
4 questions that they may want to have further
5 discussion with the Company, is there a contact
6 person that they might be able to speak to?

7 MR. SETTINERI: Yes, your Honor. As
8 always, I appreciate the comments from everybody
9 tonight. People can -- I would recommend reach out
10 to William Risse with the project. William's number
11 is (952) 300-9476, again William Risse (952)
12 300-9476. His contact information was in the public
13 information letters that were sent out to the
14 landowners within the project area and those that are
15 immediately adjacent to the project area.

16 I believe, Ms. Wharton, you should have
17 received a letter as well. Yes, certainly we would
18 appreciate any comments, questions, and hopefully
19 there can be a dialogue for people to get questions
20 answered and the concerns, especially those who live
21 across from the project area like Ms. Wharton. So
22 thank you for your comments.

23 MS. WHARTON: Yep. Thank you.

24 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, Ms. Wharton.

25 The next witness that I have on my list

1 is Jennifer Nichols. And, Mr. Schmidt, if you could
2 please promote Ms. Nichols.

3 MR. SCHMIDT: Ms. Nichols, you've been
4 promoted. If you can enable your audio and video.

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: I can see you. Hi there.

6 MS. NICHOLS: Hi.

7 ALJ AGRANOFF: If you could please raise
8 your right hand for me.

9 (Witness sworn.)

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Please spell
11 and state your full name for the record.

12 MS. NICHOLS: Jennifer Nichols,
13 J-E-N-N-I-F-E-R N-I-C-H-O-L-S.

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And your
15 address.

16 MS. NICHOLS: 4192 Broadway Street, South
17 Salem, Ohio 45681 and I am in Buckskin Township.

18 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And do you
19 either reside or work in the project area?

20 MS. NICHOLS: I reside.

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And if you
22 could please proceed with your testimony.

23 MS. NICHOLS: First off, I would like to
24 start with I respect that Ross County LLC had said
25 that the immediate people were given the information

1 to ask questions or given the direct contact to ask
 2 questions on the solar panels. I'm only about a mile
 3 and a half from the solar panels. We were not given
 4 that option. We were not given direct information.
 5 So maybe that should have been provided to a little
 6 farther out than just people that literally were on
 7 top of the solar panels because this will not only
 8 affect the people that literally live on top of that,
 9 but it will affect everybody within a 10-mile radius.
 10 I mean, if I was to sell my home with being as close
 11 as I am, it would affect my home value also.

12 So, I mean, while I respect his -- him
 13 giving us that information tonight, up until tonight
 14 I was not given that information so that wasn't sent
 15 to me. So that was good information to have.

16 But a lot -- there is a lot of
 17 disadvantages and I don't see any advantages. So a
 18 lot of the disadvantages that I see, No. 1, is my
 19 home value. I am a recent buyer. I've only lived in
 20 my house 18 months, so one of the reasons I bought
 21 this home was because of how beautiful the area is.
 22 I've lived in the area in Buckskin Township all my
 23 life. I was born and raised in Buckskin Township.
 24 However, I was on the far side of it.

25 But this house literally stuck out to me

1 because of the beautiful area. Paint Creek Dam is
 2 very close to me. You know, as they spoke before,
 3 you know, you have the camping and the lake. I worry
 4 about the revenue for that because a lot of people
 5 literally drive down Rapid Forge and 41 to get to
 6 this lake, and I worry about the revenue for them. I
 7 think that's going to decrease their revenue. Their
 8 camping revenue, they have campgrounds very close to
 9 there. That is going to decrease the revenue if you
 10 have to drive by 1,400 acres of solar field. That's
 11 going to decrease their revenue, no doubt about it.

12 Also my husband and I ride Harleys, and
 13 when we drive down Route 41 or Rapid Forge, the glare
 14 is a huge deal for us. I'm very concerned with that
 15 because I'm -- I'm not judging at all, but I highly
 16 doubt anybody in the panel tonight rides Harleys, but
 17 it's a very big thing. So even a windshield on a car
 18 can be very detrimental to the Harley rider so
 19 imagine 1,400 acres of nothing but mirrors
 20 essentially. So that's a big thing for us.

21 Also the water in the habitat, also the
 22 animals, the livestock, and the runoffs. So I know
 23 that these panels have been cleaned so what are they
 24 cleaned with? Is it a chemical? When that chemical
 25 runs off, it's running off into obviously the ground

1 because I am pretty sure there is nothing to catch
 2 that chemical runoff. So when it's running off, it's
 3 running off into our drinking water, to the fields
 4 adjacent to them, to the animals so, I mean, because
 5 a lot of the fields around us the animals literally
 6 drink out of the water in the stream. They don't
 7 have any kind of watering system. So they don't
 8 drink out of you, you know, like a cup or, you know,
 9 a fountain of some sort. They drink out of the
 10 stream. So a lot of the farmers will keep their
 11 livestock close to a stream. So if that chemical you
 12 have cleaned these solar panels with has run off into
 13 that stream, what is it going to do to that animals'
 14 health? That is a big concern for me.

15 Also is human health. You know, the
 16 people that live close to there, what is, you know,
 17 the health concerns for that? I don't think there
 18 has been enough study shown on what it would be to
 19 human health. You know, we don't know what kind of,
 20 you know, chemicals or anything that comes off of
 21 these panels. I don't think there has been enough
 22 evidence shown of what kind of health issues can come
 23 off of these panels.

24 Another issue is -- for me is what
 25 advantage is for me, the homeowner, going to get from

1 this solar panel field that's going to be a mile and
2 a half from me? AEP is saying there is going to be a
3 possible rate hike this year. I have a solar field
4 for me that possibly is going to be a mile and a half
5 away, and I am going to have a rate hike? Why is
6 that? You know, what benefit is there going to be to
7 me on that? Why should I be like, oh, yes, I am
8 going to have a solar field? There is no benefit for
9 me on that.

10 You know, if I am going to have to have
11 all these disadvantages, there should be some
12 advantages, a tax break, you know, something but
13 there's nothing for us. You know, the homeowners are
14 not getting it. The landowners are getting some kind
15 of break, but the homeowners are not getting nothing.
16 We are only seeing disadvantages on this, and I hope
17 the Board and the judges understand that we are not
18 seeing any advantages on this.

19 You know, as far as I understand that,
20 solar power is coming into our world as a big thing.
21 But there has to be some advantages and there's
22 nothing being showed to us. Everything is
23 disadvantage. You know, we have everything being
24 negative given to us. You know, this energy is going
25 to be sold to a bigger company at a discounted rate

1 when we are literally right on top of it or less than
2 a mile and a half away, and we're proposed rate
3 hikes. So there's -- there's just nothing.

4 You know, and the possibility of our
5 animals being -- you know, something happening to our
6 animals, you know, our field, our conservation.
7 There's just too many negatives. And then at the end
8 of this when these solar panels are being taken away,
9 we don't know how they are going to be
10 decommissioned. You know, if there is damage to
11 this, if the panel is damaged, what kind of emissions
12 is it going to give off? You know, what issues is it
13 going to have to the neighboring people that have to
14 be right beside this?

15 Other than that that's my biggest issues.
16 You know, property value, of course, like I said,
17 that's a huge thing. I don't plan on selling my
18 property any time soon, but I know there is a lot of
19 people that are elderly; and, you know, they may have
20 to downsize and move, you know. They shouldn't be
21 penalized and have to sell their property for less,
22 something they built their life on, because of a
23 solar field that is literally in their front yard
24 now.

25 So I thank you guys tonight. I

1 appreciate you giving me the time to speak.

2 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

3 Judge Davis?

4 ALJ DAVIS: Nothing from me. Thank you.

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: Mr. Settineri?

6 MR. SETTINERI: Yeah. Just a couple
7 quick questions. Ms. Nichols, just so I understand,
8 do you live -- did you say about a mile or so, a mile
9 and a half from the project boundary?

10 MS. NICHOLS: Correct.

11 MR. SETTINERI: All right. And friendly
12 question, would you like someone from the project
13 company to reach out to you to discuss the project,
14 some of your concerns?

15 MS. NICHOLS: It would have been great
16 initially. I mean, we literally didn't know anything
17 about this until it got put on the internet by a
18 friend, so initially when this happened back I guess
19 last summer, we knew nothing about this.

20 MR. SETTINERI: Okay. All right. Thank
21 you. No more questions. Thank you.

22 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Appreciate
23 your testimony.

24 Judge Davis, I believe the next witness
25 is yours.

1 ALJ DAVIS: Thanks, Judge Agranoff. I
2 believe our next witness is Christy Sizemore.
3 Mr. Schmidt, if you could get her set in.

4 MR. SCHMIDT: Ms. Sizemore, you've been
5 promoted. If you can enable your audio and video.

6 MS. SIZEMORE: Hello. Can I just do
7 audio? Can you hear me?

8 ALJ DAVIS: Yes, we can hear you.

9 MS. SIZEMORE: Can I do audio?

10 ALJ DAVIS: Yes, yes. Thanks for
11 attending. Can I ask you to raise your right hand?

12 MS. SIZEMORE: Yes.

13 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. And could you
16 please state and spell your full name for the record.

17 MS. SIZEMORE: Christina Sizemore,
18 C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-A S-I-Z-E-M-O-R-E.

19 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. And could you
20 please provide your address.

21 MS. SIZEMORE: I reside at 50 Osage
22 Court, Wilmington, Ohio 45177. I work in the
23 township. And I am part owner of a family farm that
24 is in Paint Township.

25 ALJ DAVIS: Okay. But I don't -- do you

1 live within Paint Township?

2 MS. SIZEMORE: Not currently.

3 ALJ DAVIS: Okay. So to the next
4 question as to whether you reside or work within the
5 project area, yes or -- I'm sorry.

6 MS. SIZEMORE: Work.

7 ALJ DAVIS: You work within the -- okay.
8 I'm sorry. I was trying to piece all that together.
9 So you work within the project area.

10 MS. SIZEMORE: Yes.

11 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. You may proceed
12 with your testimony.

13 MS. SIZEMORE: I have several things that
14 I wanted to address. The first one is that I would
15 urge the Siting Board to delay this process and let
16 adequate public knowledge be available because
17 according to the Siting Board, the second notice
18 filed to public -- for the public was Friday so
19 that's one business day since the public notice has
20 been filed.

21 The first public notice per the Siting
22 Board was filed in February, so I don't feel that
23 there's been adequate public knowledge of this
24 project going forward. And there's also the House
25 Bill that's in the Senate, House Bill 52, that

1 addresses large scale solar farms and wind farms, and
2 given that that is already moving forward, I would
3 urge the Siting Board to wait on this project in
4 order for the House and the Senate to come to their
5 decision with that bill.

6 But I also wanted to address some other
7 concerns. I am the mother of four children and we
8 actively teach about renewable energy and we are not
9 against renewable energy. We are actually very for
10 all forms of energy. But this project, I've done a
11 lot of reading about it, and it just makes you wonder
12 if the highest and best use is -- is applicable.

13 You know, my husband works for an energy
14 solution company, and they are offering short-term
15 lease -- lease solutions, and the 30-year lease
16 that's proposed just seems ridiculous because it's so
17 long term. And solar is -- you know, it's the
18 highest waste product of all of the renewables. We
19 still have yet to figure out what to do with the
20 waste.

21 The Company, you can correct me if I'm
22 wrong, but Ross County Solar is owned by National
23 Grid which is owned by National Grid Group based out
24 of London. Correct me if I'm wrong. I think that's
25 right. On their website today they are already

1 looking at hydrogen energy as possible different
2 solutions.

3 So, I mean, 30 years on solar, we don't
4 know where we are going to be at 30 years from now.
5 So I think that -- that a short-term solution may
6 have a better impact than a long-term one. That
7 being said, you know, storms are increasing. I've
8 read some reports that the tornado alley over the
9 last 40 years has actually shifted eastward.

10 So once we have, you know, bad storms,
11 you know, there's the concern that, you know, we are
12 going to leach contaminants, you know, these panels
13 break or bust open or if we have, you know, high
14 winds. I know that there's been reports they can
15 sustain high winds but there's also numerous reports
16 that they do get damaged and -- and there's also
17 reports that the European Ordinance on Hazardous
18 Substances just put out a report they do release
19 pollutants so, you know, there's reports both ways
20 and there is just not enough information for the
21 public, you know, to feel -- to feel safe about their
22 health concerns.

23 Recycling is a huge concern. I don't
24 know if the 12 million allotted for the end of -- you
25 know, decommission is going to be enough. I feel

1 like that number might need to be higher or looked at
 2 a little more closely. There's a report that
 3 recycling is anywhere from 12 to 25 dollars per panel
 4 plus transportation costs. Transportation costs are
 5 really high in safe numbers. You know, what are they
 6 going to be like 30 years from now? We don't know,
 7 so I don't know if 12 million to decommission the
 8 panels is going to be enough. So I urge the Siting
 9 Board to look at that number.

10 My next concern would be if this company
 11 goes bankrupt. Forbes Magazine put out an article
 12 about, you know, these companies going bankrupt. And
 13 that is a huge concern because who is going to foot
 14 the bill if that happens 30 years from now?
 15 California has some hazardous waste control laws that
 16 they've put into effect. I don't think Ohio is quite
 17 there, and I urge -- urge the Siting Board to wait
 18 until Ohio can catch up because we need to have these
 19 laws in place, and we need to have voters vote on
 20 this, which is what the Senate Bill 52 is, to have
 21 the township residents vote on this.

22 My next concern is the preservation of
 23 nature and species in the area. I have a BS in
 24 integrated science, so I am, you know, a science
 25 nerd. I -- I love all things science. I love the

1 outdoors. I know that the Department of Natural
2 Resources director is on the panel and her motto is
3 to preserve rare species and the Indiana Brown Bat is
4 endangered. It's listed in the area. The Highland
5 Nature Sanctuary is actually doing a really good job
6 at preserving and saving these endangered species.
7 There is caves and karst activity probably less than
8 a mile away.

9 And I read the report that -- that they
10 are not going to cut down the trees that may be
11 habiting the brown bat during the nesting period, but
12 as soon as the nesting period is over, then, you
13 know, that habitat is going to be gone, and these
14 bats are not going to have a home. And they are
15 endangered. The karst activity is a concern because
16 of the groundwater and the possible contaminants that
17 may leach into the ground. Karst geologic -- the
18 geology of karst is, you know, caves and sinkholes
19 and that's just to the -- to the southwest border.

20 And so the ground isn't going to
21 naturally filtrate these contaminants out and that
22 leads right to the park. That river and the karst
23 activity is part of the park land and all of that is
24 going to be filtered into Paint Creek and Paint Creek
25 Lake. So I would think that that would be a -- a

1 huge concern.

2 And also, you know, there are -- Indiana
3 is producing anaerobic digesters. Hydrogen is
4 coming. There are so many renewable energy sources
5 and we are giving 1,400 acres of land for
6 15 megawatts and the cost doesn't add up to the
7 reward. You have to have a benefit coming out of
8 this. And if the benefit is that great, then I urge
9 the Siting Board to talk to the voters and let the
10 people who live there decide because if this is a
11 great project, then it should have no problem getting
12 passed.

13 But you have so many options for
14 renewable energy, and I feel like that we are just
15 trying to get this done before these laws get passed,
16 so we can just get it in before, you know, everyone
17 has to really worry about it. So I urge the Siting
18 Board to really wait and make the right decision.

19 The Department of Health, Stephanie
20 McCloud is the Director, and I would urge her to
21 really look at the Pike County Uranium Plant because
22 if you are not familiar with the area, Pike County is
23 located just to the south and that is deemed safe.
24 Cancer rates in Pike County are some of the highest
25 in the rate. Children cancer rates are some of the

1 highest in the rate according to the Department of
2 Health website. And they found traces of uranium in
3 the school district. Obviously I have four children,
4 so health is a big concern.

5 I've had to sit through two surgeries
6 with my son for a genetic issue that according to his
7 surgeon was from plastic. I also grew up and found
8 out about water contaminants at Camp Lejeune, and you
9 have, you know, the Flint water in Michigan. You
10 have water contaminants everywhere that have been
11 deemed safe. So I think the public needs to be aware
12 of possible contaminants, what those are, what type
13 of panels these are going to be put in, what the
14 risks are for having these panels, you know, just
15 some information out to the public.

16 And I think -- I think that covered all
17 of my concerns.

18 ALJ DAVIS: Any questions, Judge
19 Agranoff?

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: No, thank you.

21 ALJ DAVIS: Any questions, Mr. Settineri?

22 MR. SETTINERI: No, thank you, your
23 Honor.

24 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you.

25 Thank you for your testimony,

1 Ms. Sizemore.

2 MS. SIZEMORE: Thank you so much.

3 ALJ DAVIS: Have a good evening.

4 I see the next witness should be Daniel
5 Shirey. Mr. Schmidt, do we have Daniel Shirey?

6 MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Shirey, you've been
7 promoted. If you can enable your audio and video.

8 MR. SHIREY: Can you hear me okay? I am
9 not able to connect to video tonight.

10 ALJ DAVIS: Yes, I can hear you, sir.

11 MR. SHIREY: Okay. I have my hand
12 raised.

13 ALJ DAVIS: Okay. Raise your right hand.
14 (Witness sworn.)

15 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. Could you please
16 state and spell your name for the record.

17 MR. SHIREY: Yes. My name is Daniel
18 Shirey. That's S-H-I-R-E-Y.

19 ALJ DAVIS: And could you provide your
20 address.

21 MR. SHIREY: My address is 2602 Tick
22 Ridge Koenig Hill Road, that's Otway, Ohio 45657 and
23 that's in Brush Creek Township.

24 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. And do you reside
25 or work within the project area?

1 MR. SHIREY: I do not reside, but I do
2 represent workers in the area.

3 ALJ DAVIS: Okay. Thank you, sir. You
4 may proceed with your testimony.

5 MR. SHIREY: Again, my name is Dan
6 Shirey. I am the business manager for IBEW Local
7 575. That's the electricians' union and we have the
8 jurisdiction there in Ross County. And I would just
9 like to urge the Ohio Power Siting Board to approve
10 this application. It would provide likely hundreds
11 of good paying construction jobs during its
12 construction. It would also help with climate change
13 by getting rid of a lot of carbon emissions. And it
14 would also provide 1 million plus dollars annually to
15 the local communities in the form of revenue.

16 And again, I would just urge the Siting
17 Board to consider approving this application. Thank
18 you.

19 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

20 Judge Agranoff, do you have any
21 questions?

22 ALJ AGRANOFF: No, thank you.

23 ALJ DAVIS: Mr. Settineri?

24 MR. SETTINERI: No, thank you.

25 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you for your -- for

1 your testimony, Mr. Shirey.

2 MR. SHIREY: Thank you. Have a good
3 evening.

4 ALJ DAVIS: You too.

5 I think our next witness shows Sam Byars,
6 Byars.

7 MR. BYARS: Yes. Can you hear me?

8 ALJ DAVIS: Yes, yes, I can. Are you
9 connected via audio and video or just audio? I can
10 hear you. Okay. I can see you now.

11 MR. BYARS: You can, okay.

12 ALJ DAVIS: Hello. Welcome to you.
13 Raise your right hand. Thank you.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. Could you please
16 state and spell your name for the record.

17 MR. BYARS: It's Sam Byars, S-A-M
18 B-Y-A-R-S.

19 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. And could you
20 provide your address including a township if you live
21 in one.

22 MR. BYARS: My residence is in Austin,
23 Texas. It's 2103 Schulle Avenue, Austin, Texas.
24 We -- we have a residence on Rapid Forge Road at 7359
25 Rapid Forge Road.

1 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. So do you reside
2 or work within the project area?

3 MR. BYARS: No, we don't.

4 ALJ DAVIS: Okay.

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: Where is Rapid Forge Road
6 located? What municipality?

7 MR. BYARS: Our property is mostly in
8 Buckskin County -- Township. We have a little bit of
9 property in Paint Township.

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. So for the mailing
11 address, where would that be?

12 MR. BYARS: Buckskin.

13 ALJ AGRANOFF: And what's the ZIP Code
14 there?

15 MR. BYARS: 45123.

16 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

17 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir. You may
18 proceed with your testimony.

19 MR. BYARS: Thank you. Appreciate the
20 opportunity to talk to you this evening. I'm Sam
21 Byars. My wife owns a farm at the intersection of
22 Rapid Forge Road and Lower Twin Road. The farm has
23 been in her family for many years. She inherited it
24 from her mother and -- about 21 years ago in 2000.
25 Her -- her ancestors farmed the farm before that.

1 Her grandfather was the last person in her family to
2 directly farm the property, but we've been actively
3 involved in -- my wife and I have gotten more and
4 more involved over the years since she inherited the
5 farm.

6 About 10 years ago, we -- we took the
7 farm organic, and we have -- we put animals back on
8 the farm. We've got cattle and sheep on the farm.
9 And we planted about 85 acres of hardwood seedlings
10 15 years ago, so we've been trying to -- to improve
11 the farm and take care of the farm and over the years
12 have gotten more and more active in doing that.

13 We didn't know until about 10 years ago
14 that the farm was ideally situated for a solar farm,
15 that it's close to an electric substation and there's
16 an electric transmission line that runs directly
17 through the farm. And, oh, about 10 years ago we
18 started getting inquiries from solar companies to
19 lease the property, a number of them, probably -- oh,
20 probably 5 or 10 over the years.

21 We didn't really pursue it with any of
22 them. I will tell you that we did pursue it with
23 Geronimo, now National Grid, and our experience with
24 them has been very good. They have been very
25 straightforward in all of our discussions with them.

1 A part of our farm will go in the solar project if
2 it's approved, but a part will not. We're keeping
3 land where we will be grazing animals immediately
4 adjacent to the solar farm.

5 For that reason we had a lot of the same
6 concerns I guess that we've heard tonight. And we
7 raised those with -- with Geronimo and now National
8 Grid, and they were very receptive and very
9 responsive. They did -- in our discussions with them
10 they agreed to vegetative setbacks. They limited the
11 access points on -- to control traffic to and from
12 the site. There were a number of things that we
13 found them to be very responsive to. And I
14 understand the concerns of the neighbors that have
15 been raised because we are going to be neighbors with
16 this too. Again, we are part in and part out.

17 But I think National Grid has been a good
18 company to deal with. A lot of the companies that we
19 were approached by seemed kind of like cowboys. They
20 were out just trying to tie up properties to peddle a
21 package to a utility company to do a project.

22 National Grid is a utility company and they are --
23 they are very substantial and we found them to be
24 very forthright in -- in addressing our concerns and
25 our hope is and expectation would be that they would

1 be the same with the neighbors that have raised
2 concerns tonight.

3 The prior speaker talked about some of
4 the benefits for the local community. We hope there
5 certainly are economic benefits for -- during
6 construction and the tax benefits. We think there
7 will be benefits.

8 What finally won us over -- because we
9 did have internal discussions and debates but what
10 finally won us over was the renewable energy and the
11 need for renewable energy and the interface between
12 it. We feel we are in regenerative agriculture and
13 it felt compatible to us philosophically and I think
14 it's -- it's -- the concerns that the neighbors have
15 raised need to be addressed to protect the adjacent
16 landowners.

17 I agree with that, but I think overall
18 the project is beneficial, and I think it will be
19 beneficial to the local economy. And I think also
20 just it will be beneficial to address climate change.
21 So I think there -- there is some compelling reasons
22 for it and that's what ultimately got us onboard.

23 And that's our -- that's our testimony.

24 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

25 Judge Agranoff, did you have any

1 questions?

2 ALJ AGRANOFF: If I understood correctly,
3 you are indicating that a portion of your farm is in
4 the project area and a portion is not?

5 MR. BYARS: Correct.

6 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Could you give us
7 just kind of an estimation as to how that breakdown
8 is?

9 MR. BYARS: You mean for acreage?

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: Percentage.

11 MR. BYARS: Oh, probably about two-thirds
12 of the farm will be in it and about a third will be
13 out.

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

15 ALJ DAVIS: Mr. Settineri, did you have
16 any questions?

17 MR. SETTINERI: I don't. Thank you, sir.

18 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you again for your
19 testimony, Mr. Byars, and have a good evening.

20 MR. BYARS: Thank you.

21 ALJ DAVIS: I show our next witness
22 should be contacting via phone, John Kinzer. Do we
23 have Mr. Kinzer?

24 MR. SCHMIDT: Actually we have Mr. Kinzer
25 via Webex.

1 ALJ DAVIS: Oh, okay.

2 MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Kinzer, you have been
3 promoted. If you can enable your audio and/or video.
4 Mr. Kinzer?

5 MR. KINZER: I can see you.

6 MR. SCHMIDT: Okay. I have unmuted you
7 so we can hear you.

8 MR. KINZER: You can hear me?

9 MR. SCHMIDT: If you are having trouble
10 with your video, we can proceed with audio only, if
11 you would like.

12 MR. KINZER: I can see us on the video.
13 I can see you. Can you see us? Can you see me?

14 ALJ DAVIS: We do not see you, but we can
15 hear you loud and clear.

16 MR. KINZER: Okay. We'll try that one.

17 ALJ DAVIS: Okay. We can just proceed
18 with audio. If I could ask you to raise your right
19 hand, please.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. If you could
22 please state and spell your full name for the record.

23 MR. KINZER: John T. Kinzer, Jr.; John,
24 J-O-H-N, Kinzer, K-I-N-Z-E-R.

25 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir. And could

1 you provide your address including the township if
2 you live in one.

3 MR. KINZER: My -- well, this is a good
4 one for you. My address right now is in Florida. I
5 live at 501 Ulti -- Ulterman Road -- Ulmerton Road in
6 Largo, Florida, at the moment. That was our vacation
7 home for the winter time. And we recently sold
8 206 acres on Rapid Forge Road, but we still own 151
9 which is in the solar project.

10 ALJ DAVIS: Okay. Sir, you can continue.

11 MR. KINZER: okay. So I'm going. You
12 know, anything new, anything strange people have a
13 tendency to say, oh, we don't want that around. A
14 lot of times they don't know the facts of what's
15 going on.

16 ALJ DAVIS: Okay. Let me stop you right
17 there. Sorry. So you said you still own that land
18 that's within -- which township is that land in?

19 MR. KINZER: It's in Paint Township.

20 ALJ DAVIS: Okay. Paint Township.

21 MR. KINZER: Yeah. The address there is
22 6672 Rapid Forge Road, Greenfield.

23 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. Okay. So to the
24 next question, do you reside or work within the
25 project area, you can go ahead.

1 MR. KINZER: We still have the farm, and
2 we did until January, but I am kind of trying to
3 retire. And we've got it rented right now.

4 ALJ DAVIS: Okay. So with that said you
5 can proceed with what you were going to earlier.
6 Thank you very much.

7 MR. KINZER: Yeah. A lot of things that
8 I've heard since I listened to the broadcast is that
9 misinformation, and I've heard a lot of it. And
10 hopefully I can clear up some of the misinformation.
11 One of the misinformations is that this solar project
12 was put in the paper. And I know that was put in the
13 paper for the public to see that -- that it was going
14 to be tested or tried out as a solar project trying
15 to get the permits.

16 The second thing is that it's been over
17 fours years ago since I first signed the contract
18 with the solar company; and, you know, talk in a
19 small town goes big time. So almost everybody knew
20 they were trying to build a solar field.

21 Let me keep going with my original
22 statement here before I try to clear up some
23 misnomers. I've lived on Rapid Forge Road for the
24 majority of my life, and I'm 68 years old. And my
25 parents, the farm that's -- that we still have was my

1 parents' farm. They bought the farm in 1940s. And
 2 one of the things that makes it exciting for us is
 3 that if this solar project goes, we will be able to
 4 keep the family farm, and I will be able to pass this
 5 down to my kids into the future. They will still
 6 have an income without having to sell the family
 7 farm. That is one of the most important things to
 8 me.

9 I have also been -- my entire life I've
 10 been a farmer. I've been a dairy farmer. We had a
 11 hog operation. And in '19 -- or 2018 we farmed
 12 3,000 acres, so I know a lot about land. I know a
 13 lot about further -- you know, the soil and, you
 14 know, those are some things I might be able to help
 15 some people out on.

16 One of the things is that when these
 17 solar panels go up, there's something underneath of
 18 them. You know, it's not bare ground. It's usually
 19 a grass and there's also fence built all the way
 20 around them so that animals can't get in because they
 21 don't want their solar panels tore up. So the
 22 animals are not going to get in. And if your animals
 23 are running on somebody else's property, you are in
 24 trouble to start with. But, you know, we all have
 25 once in a while something gets out. Believe me I've

1 had over 200 head of cattle at one time.

2 But the land on our farm specifically is
3 highly erodible. That means it's hilly. And if it's
4 in grass, it's not going to wash. So if these solar
5 panels are underneath of here, this ground is going
6 to get better over the years. If it's in there 25 or
7 30 years, that ground is going to lay dormant, and it
8 will even be better if it comes out in the future.

9 I do understand from the contract that I
10 signed and read there is a fund appropriated that if
11 the Company goes out of business, there's X amount of
12 dollars, I can't remember the exact figure right now,
13 that is used to dismantle and put land back as
14 originally they found it. And if -- you know, that
15 is one of the reasons why I signed the contract. 30
16 years from now, 35 years, if this thing -- they
17 decide they don't want this solar field any more,
18 they have to pull up all the metals, all the panels.
19 Everything has to be back to its original -- original
20 shape that they found it.

21 That's another reason I signed a
22 contract. I like that idea. People who say that
23 they work in this area, now, if you take a look at
24 your map of where the solar 1,400 acres is, the only
25 people that work there are people that work from home

1 because there is no business around there except four
2 or five of us farmers. So people say, well, I work
3 in the area. You are a good ways away because South
4 Salem is a couple of miles away, Greenfield is 2 or
5 3 miles away, and Paint Creek Lake is at least
6 2 miles away.

7 And I've heard people say we don't want
8 to drive down the road and see solar panels. Well,
9 on Rapid Forge Road there is going to be about
10 2 miles of solar panels on one side, maybe a little
11 bit there on our farm on the other side, but very
12 little.

13 This -- this solar field is constructed
14 in a way that there's nobody in the middle of it.
15 There's no houses here in the middle of this solar
16 farm. It's what runs on one side or the other side,
17 nothing on either end. And, you know, I urge the
18 Board to go Google Map this thing and see for
19 yourself how many houses or how many families are
20 affected. It's not that many. A lot of times people
21 cry wolf wolf because they didn't get a piece of the
22 action. And maybe I would do the same thing. I know
23 it benefits me if it does proceed.

24 Now, on solar panels, solar panels have
25 been out for a long time. Solar panels are on

1 people's houses. The further south you go or
2 California, anywhere where there is more sun there's
3 nothing but solar panels on everybody's rooftop, and
4 they are not sick. They didn't get contaminated by
5 water.

6 I also heard a statement that the water
7 runoff would go to Paint Creek. And that's not true
8 either because Buckskin River -- or Creek goes the
9 opposite direction from Paint Creek, and Paint Creek
10 is what feeds Paint Creek Lake. So that wasn't
11 exactly the way it's supposed to be.

12 Probably a lot of people won't like what
13 I got to say, but I am going say it anyway. Let me
14 see, 2 miles south so Paint Creek -- Paint Creek is
15 at least 2 miles south because of where the last
16 solar panel is, at least.

17 As far as wildlife, Ross County had over
18 100,000 acres taken out of -- of farm production in
19 the last 10 years that was highly erodible. And
20 we've got wildlife out the kazoo. We have got people
21 that would come down to the farm, my son, just
22 begging to go deer hunting because they were so
23 popular or pheasant hunting, turkey hunting all over
24 the place. So we had a lot of animals.

25 To me that's -- you know, that's -- I am

1 sure you don't want to look out your backdoor or your
2 front door and see a solar panel. But, you know,
3 this is 2021. And we've got to go with the way
4 things are, and we have to have more electric in this
5 company -- or in this country because the coal --
6 coal manufacturing, the coal business is going down.
7 How else are you going to provide the electricity?
8 We have got a lot of new electricity cars coming out,
9 and if you don't believe me, just go buy a new
10 vehicle and they will ask you what you think about
11 your electric vehicle. And, you know, you get your
12 survey back I don't have an electric vehicle but
13 there's a lot of them that will be coming down the
14 road.

15 I am sure I missed a bunch of stuff, but
16 when you get runoff, when you got -- when your ground
17 has got grass on it covered, that stops that runoff.
18 You are not going to get that. We are not going to
19 have soil erosion or water erosion, and as far as the
20 atomic plant in Waverly, that's an awful long ways
21 from us. And, yes, I know the wind blows this way
22 sometimes, but my mother lived to be 92 years old,
23 and she lived on Rapid Forge at least 80 years of her
24 life.

25 I don't know what else to tell you other

1 than a lot of people don't have all their
2 information. They haven't researched it. I have had
3 a least four years and three different contracts to
4 read through with my attorney to know that this is
5 a -- is a pretty good deal. And I -- I support it,
6 and I urge the Board if they need to look and see how
7 many people it affects, get Google Earth and look at
8 it. Or call me. I'm available and, you know, take a
9 guy who's farmed his whole life. That's me.

10 But, you know, this -- why did I want to
11 put it in there? Because it will help my retirement.
12 Of course, that's all me but it will. It will
13 supplement my retirement. I won't have to sell the
14 farm. I want to keep it. Those are -- you know,
15 those are some points I wanted to bring to the Board.

16 They need to look at this and see who is
17 affected. It's not as many people as what you are
18 hearing. South Salem is a long ways off; and, you
19 know, if I wanted to build a new barn, I would want
20 to build it. If I wanted to sell it to the neighbor,
21 I would sell it. I don't have to ask everybody in
22 the community what they think about it. And, you
23 know, that's just my opinion. If I want to build a
24 solar field out there, it's my farm, I will build it.
25 You know what I mean?

1 But that's -- I understand since it's
2 public it all has to go through the channels. But
3 that's just about all I got.

4 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you.

5 Judge Agranoff, did you have any
6 questions?

7 ALJ AGRANOFF: No, thank you.

8 ALJ DAVIS: Mr. Settineri?

9 MR. SETTINERI: No, thank you, your
10 Honor.

11 Thank you, Mr. Kinzer.

12 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Kinzer, for
13 your testimony. Have a good evening.

14 MR. KINZER: You too.

15 ALJ DAVIS: Mr. Schmidt, I believe our
16 next is Mike Meyers who should be via phone, but
17 perhaps he's not.

18 MR. SCHMIDT: We do have Mr. Meyers on
19 the phone.

20 ALJ DAVIS: Okay.

21 MR. SCHMIDT: Your Honor, I have
22 Mr. Meyers, telephone witness, on the phone. Go
23 ahead, sir.

24 MR. MEYERS: My name is Michael Robert
25 Meyers.

1 ALJ DAVIS: Hello. Hello.

2 MR. MEYERS: Paint Township. In fact, I
3 just recently purchased some land off of the previous
4 witness Mr. Kinzer.

5 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

6 MR. MEYERS: I did not hear the
7 scuttlebutt about the solar farm.

8 ALJ DAVIS: I am going to stop you there
9 for a second. I need to swear you in.

10 MR. MEYERS: Go ahead.

11 ALJ DAVIS: Can you raise your right
12 hand, please, and let me know when you have done so.

13 MR. MEYERS: Yes.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. And could you
16 please state and spell your name for the record.

17 MR. MEYERS: It is Michael Robert Meyers,
18 M-I-C-H-A-E-L R-O-B-E-R-T M-E-Y-E-R-S.

19 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you.

20 MR. MEYERS: Bainbridge, Ohio, ZIP Code
21 45612.

22 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. And do you reside
23 or work within the project area?

24 MR. MEYERS: I do both.

25 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Mr. Meyers, one moment.
2 One moment, Judge Davis. Mr. Meyers, could you
3 please repeat your address.

4 MR. MEYERS: 374 Moxley Road,
5 M-O-X-L-E-Y, Bainbridge, Ohio.

6 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay.

7 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. Thanks, Judge
8 Agranoff.

9 ALJ AGRANOFF: You are welcome.

10 ALJ DAVIS: You may proceed with your
11 testimony, Mr. Meyers.

12 MR. MEYERS: All right. I appreciate the
13 opportunity to give an opinion here and to voice
14 concerns and so forth. I guess I am a little
15 concerned that I believe there is only maybe four
16 Board members participating in this hearing. Is that
17 correct or? From the Siting Board?

18 ALJ AGRANOFF: When you say members are
19 participating in this hearing, what exactly are
20 you --

21 MR. MEYERS: That are listening or -- or
22 attending the meeting tonight; is that correct or? I
23 apologize. I can barely hear you, sir.

24 ALJ AGRANOFF: I'm not exactly sure as to
25 how many of the Board members are actually listening

1 in tonight for the hearing.

2 MR. MEYERS: Okay. Well, and I apologize
3 as well. I am testifying via phone because we are
4 looking at solar panels into a particular area. A
5 lot of the homes in the area do not have high speed
6 internet or access to meetings. It's a little
7 concerning that with all this high tech technology
8 and all this money spent out that the solar company
9 could not provide a facility for local residents to
10 go testify and view the area and so forth. That has
11 been done even with COVID throughout all political
12 spectrums and aspects of life. So I am a little
13 concerned with that.

14 And I apologize. I do not have a written
15 statement. I guess I was under the assumption that
16 Buckskin Township is a zoned township and that the
17 zoning would stop the solar company and the Public
18 Utilities from going further. I guess I am wrong.

19 Through my research today I heard that if
20 they produce a certain amount of megawatts, that that
21 Siting Board can overrule the township local
22 residents' zoning. That may be true; it may not be
23 true. I heard that -- I believe that the solar
24 panels are going to operate at 125 megawatts and if
25 that's anything over 50 megabytes, that the Siting

1 Board has jurisdiction over even though the township
2 is zoned, and it's zoned agriculture.

3 However, briefly reviewing some of the
4 the Siting Board's report, which is a fantastic
5 report, I disagree with a lot that's in the report.
6 A lot of it appears to be canned statements about
7 other areas, that the report basically says that the
8 solar panels will only operate at 22, 25 percent
9 output.

10 It also says they have not decided what
11 megawatt panels to use, so I would suggest to the
12 Siting Board that this could fall under the limit
13 that gives the Siting Board jurisdiction to change
14 the zoning in Buckskin Township. So as others have
15 suggested, I would highly recommend that the Siting
16 Board delay their opinions and steps to proceed with
17 this.

18 You have heard from numerous people,
19 local residents including me. I just -- like I said,
20 I just purchased a large farm, and it was not
21 disclosed to me the solar farm was going to be coming
22 into the area and had no window, and yet I have lived
23 there for a long time.

24 The notice for the meetings, we received
25 a letter last Saturday right before Easter weekend

1 about this meeting tonight and so forth as a
 2 reminder. We did not ever receive any letters as
 3 others had stated that the solar company was looking
 4 at coming into the area. This is not hard to do.
 5 Yes, it might have been published in the Chillicothe
 6 Newspaper. The Chillicothe Newspaper, by the way, is
 7 approximately 20 some miles away. Typically,
 8 delivery on it used to be a day late, day after. I
 9 guess that notice for the meeting was posted today.
 10 That would indicate that the residents that get their
 11 paper tomorrow would -- the meeting would already be
 12 over. So, you know, in today's technology world
 13 there should be numerous ways to notify everybody,
 14 every citizen -- citizens included.

15 As I said, there is very limited high
 16 speed internet access in the area, spotty at best.
 17 That is one reason why I am on the phone and not
 18 with, you know, set up a camera but so, you know,
 19 numerous reasons here. Mr. Kinder testified or
 20 indicated that the land is highly erodible and that
 21 grass should be -- you know, would stop the erosion
 22 and so forth. I have talked to several people that
 23 worked on these solar panels including others that --
 24 you know, healthy sites. And when you get to the
 25 sites, equipment, machines break down. You go there.

1 You are up to your knees in muck.

2 So this brings up some other issues that
3 are not covered in the report, and we are doing all
4 this work and so forth. Why are we not putting in
5 drainage tile to drain? Should drain tile be put
6 under every one of these panels or rays? They should
7 get rid of the muck in the land.

8 And what about the mosquitoes? We got
9 the West Nile Virus that we need to be concerned
10 with. We got the Zika Virus, and we also have Lyme
11 Disease which is highly contagious in the Bainbridge
12 area.

13 Each panels -- nothing dries under it.
14 The sun does not get to the ground. That should be
15 relatively common knowledge so because the sun
16 doesn't get to the ground you have no way to get rid
17 of the muck. Highly contagious mosquitoes breeding
18 grounds.

19 I believe it was mentioned that the
20 Indiana Bat is an endangered species, and the Siting
21 Board report I do not see anything where the Federal
22 Government was contacted concerning this bat. Yes,
23 we are not going to cut trees down during breeding
24 season. Okay. What happens at night, at midnight
25 when the bat goes out? We all know nothing good

1 happens after midnight, right? So we got -- we got
2 these solar panels. How do those affect the
3 endangered species? How does it affect their not
4 only breeding but their feeding habits? And if we
5 are spraying the mosquitoes that are underneath the
6 solar panels, we will introduce toxins to the bats
7 and so forth.

8 So from that hill we plan on putting
9 solar panels on, you can actually see the Ohio seal
10 that you see in the Ohio seal with the sun rising.
11 On a nice, clear day, you can sit up there on Rapid
12 Forge and see that sun come up over those hills.

13 I would highly -- I really wanted to ask
14 has anybody been to this area? I guess has Board
15 members on the Siting Board, has anybody drove down
16 here? Have you guys looked at the completed sites?
17 We are going to make all these decisions. Why not
18 take some time and come down and view the area.

19 You have U.S. land that is touching the
20 solar panel farms, and on this land you have natural
21 archways. You have different caves. You have got
22 the Seven Caves, the beauty of the Seven Caves down
23 the road that has been off limits to -- as a kid, one
24 of the most beautiful places to go. You had
25 limestone cliffs, Seven Caves, places to go, very

1 natural, very natural wonder. It's better than
2 Hocking Hills by the way. Those have been placed off
3 limits so that the Appalachian Conservatory could
4 work to take care of the bats.

5 And so basically, you know, we have a
6 huge report here, and nothing against the landowners
7 that are signed up in this solar company. Makenzie
8 indicated that she's had numerous buyers that have
9 backed out of the house that had sold within 24, 48
10 hours, okay? The solar company's answer to that is,
11 well, we did a study. We did a study, and it does
12 not affect property values in the area, okay? The
13 study's done in Minnesota and Pennsylvania. Why is
14 not a study down around here?

15 Well, there's -- the three words in real
16 estate is what? Location, location, location, okay?
17 I feel -- I feel for them. By the way Fannie Mae
18 guidelines will not allow solar panels on a house. I
19 don't know why. It's telling that the
20 government-backed organization will not lend on
21 those.

22 I am trying to get my -- get my place
23 here. I apologize. I lost it. This study says a
24 lot about bountiful jobs, and we heard about that. A
25 guy called in miles away there is going to be some

1 good local jobs. That's fantastic. We are all for
2 jobs. We are all for green energy and so forth. But
3 in these studies we talked about, well, we are going
4 to give tax abatements out and this is all going to
5 make up for the taxes. I just don't understand that.
6 We are giving tax abatements out, but the tax is
7 going to be the same. That means you have to raise
8 everybody else's taxes, okay?

9 But, yes, the county commissioners are
10 getting money. The Bucks -- the township trustees,
11 they are all getting their money. School board is
12 get some extra money through tax abatements. Why not
13 just tax everything equal? Put a tax on the solar
14 panels in the farm. That should be right upfront.

15 By the way, we talked about clean energy
16 and energy efficiency and climate change. This
17 report says that solar costs \$1,640 per kilowatt.
18 Currently natural gas is 790 -- or, excuse me, \$710 a
19 kilowatt. That's a big difference.

20 I don't know if you guys know but
21 recently a 10 or 12 year old kid at a science fair
22 came up with a new design for a solar panel. And MIT
23 says it increases the solar efficiency 8 times, 8
24 times over what we currently use. That's a 10, 12
25 year old kid. I hope he gets paid for it, not MIT.

1 But that is the natural study. It's out there. We
2 are all for -- we are all for it and just think if we
3 had something 8 times. We would have 8 times less
4 solar panels. Wouldn't that be fantastic?

5 This study also says that you cannot
6 see -- you have minimal impact. Well, this seal is
7 real close to Highland County, tallest peak, okay?
8 It might not be the tallest area in Ross County
9 because we do have a lot of -- a lot of Ice Age
10 hills, okay? But within a mile or so the tallest
11 hill in Highland County. That is why you can see the
12 great seal and so forth. It says that this impact is
13 highly -- highly very minimal, okay? Very minimal,
14 okay?

15 We are going to do a 16 foot tall
16 infrastructure, a foot size, right there next to
17 State 41 and Lower Twin, about 75 feet from some poor
18 man's house. He's not here to testify today because
19 I don't know if he knows about this or not, okay? Do
20 you guys know the tallest building around here is
21 only 3 stories tall within probably 20, 25 miles?
22 So, you know, this study misses an airport that's
23 located 5 miles down the road, a private airport. It
24 mentions a couple others.

25 Again, I would like to implore upon the

1 Siting panel to let's notify people. Let's make sure
2 they are all notified. Let's set up some actual
3 hearings. I would ask the Siting Board to check and
4 see if they actually have jurisdiction because if
5 only a portion of this electric is produced and a
6 portion of it is in Buckskin Township, I would assume
7 that they do not have jurisdiction to change the
8 zoning.

9 The study also indicates there's about 95
10 private wells in the area. We have heard about karst
11 activity. In fact, the study actually said there is
12 karst activity on the site. There's a site nearby
13 and, of course, you know, when the water -- when the
14 water hits the ground, we never know which way it
15 goes. Buckskin Creek actually does flow into Paint
16 Creek. Flows right down my property and right down
17 the State Route 41, dumps into Paint Creek right
18 below the dam. But there is 93 wells in the area,
19 okay? And these people could be contaminated. They
20 don't know, okay?

21 And Highland -- and I am not so concerned
22 about contamination from the solar panels hitting the
23 wells, but we are driving the piles into the ground
24 and this is a process. This is a huge process. And
25 what does that do to the groundwater? I know when my

1 neighbors drilled a well, I got rust and sulfur
2 water, okay? And this is such a big project. It
3 says that -- what, \$28 million into the local
4 economy. Well, let's increase that by another 5
5 million and give everybody public water and wells in
6 the area. Why not?

7 AEP recently asked for 11 percent rates,
8 I think Jennifer brought that up, or somebody, they
9 asked for rates before and wanted to help pay for the
10 solar panels, okay? Well, why do we have to pay for
11 it? And I don't blame John. I don't blame the other
12 neighbors. I would probably rent that ground as
13 well. You know, they are retired in Florida. Go
14 retire in Austin, Texas. These guys are no longer up
15 in this area. That's why -- that's why it's not a
16 concern to them. If I lived out in Otway, Ohio, I
17 would be wanting jobs as well. Everybody wants jobs.
18 That's the best thing to do.

19 But they are not local jobs, okay?
20 People aren't staying in the hotels around here
21 because there are no hotels. It might be filling up
22 the Paint Creek Camping Grounds because, you know,
23 it's a very popular camping grounds, and they might
24 just take all those campsites for the remainder of
25 the year.

1 I believe I forwarded you guys on a
2 couple of things. But again, where is the federal
3 study for the environmental impacts concerning the
4 Indiana Bats? Endangered species, we have got
5 numerous. We have got several -- in your report you
6 list several -- several species that are on the
7 endangered list. We have no study -- yes, we are not
8 going to cut trees down during breeding season. We
9 have no study what the electromagnetic radiation does
10 to the bats' sonar and how it affects them and so
11 forth.

12 There is a lot of issues here. Again, I
13 would implore you guys to take a step back and see
14 what's going on and go from there and naturally
15 inform the public and let's get the -- just don't
16 rely on what the solar companies are providing us in
17 reports because it's all about what -- does it affect
18 home values in Minnesota. How the heck are you
19 going -- I believe the young lady said today I can't
20 sell my house today because people find out that
21 there's a solar panel farm going next door.

22 Of course, I guess we give credit by
23 calling it a farm. We seem to do a lot of great
24 things nowadays for changing the meaning of if in our
25 language. So now we call a public utility a farm. I

1 just do not understand that. John mentioned that the
2 ground will be returned to normal. My understanding
3 is these pilings get cut off about 4 feet below the
4 ground which has another concern in itself when it's
5 all said and done.

6 We got bond money for bridge repair. If
7 we tear up the road, we got bond money. Every
8 government agency gets bond money but that lady that
9 lives on the hill, that person that lives next door,
10 they do not get any bond money for the value of their
11 property.

12 And we all know what's going to happen
13 there. So divide up the bond money. Give everybody
14 money. Let's make this worthwhile. Instead of
15 \$1,710 per kilowatt-hour, let's make it \$1,810 and
16 keep everybody happy if that's the goal here.

17 Your Honor, I am done. I appreciate your
18 time.

19 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you for your testimony.
20 If I may keep you for just a second here, Judge
21 Agranoff, did you have any questions?

22 ALJ AGRANOFF: I did have a couple.
23 Mr. Meyers, I appreciate your testimony. I do want
24 clarification. A number of times, excuse me, you
25 made reference to either a study or a report, and I

1 just want to make sure that the record was clear.
2 Were you referencing the Staff Report of
3 Investigation?

4 MR. MEYERS: Yes, sir, I was. March 22,
5 2021.

6 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. MEYERS: This report was just done
8 right before the meeting.

9 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. I just wanted to
10 make clear that that was the report you were
11 referring to. And the other --

12 MR. MEYERS: Your Honor, I do apologize,
13 but let me interrupt real quick. This report dated
14 March 22, 2021, and we just had a meeting April 6.
15 That should be another great reason. Who's got time
16 to -- this is a pretty thorough report with a lot of
17 stuff in it. Who's got time to go through that and
18 actually have this hearing?

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: The other question I had
20 was with respect to where you reside in relationship
21 to the project area.

22 MR. MEYERS: Sir, I guess I believe I own
23 land that connects to the solar farm or to the solar
24 park. For the life of me I don't know why they call
25 it a farm. Again, I apologize, and I probably

1 learned much of these people do not live very far,
2 actually as the crow flies, probably within a quarter
3 mile across the road.

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. And is that where
5 you reside or where --

6 MR. MEYERS: Yes, sir.

7 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you. So all
8 the land that you own is outside of the project area?

9 MR. MEYERS: I -- I have no land in the
10 project area, no, sir.

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay.

12 MR. MEYERS: The project area, yes, sir.

13 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

14 That's all I had, Judge Davis.

15 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, Judge Agranoff.

16 Mr. Settineri, did you have any
17 questions?

18 MR. SETTINERI: Yeah. Yeah, just a
19 couple. And thank you for your testimony,
20 Mr. Meyers. Just you -- your address, do you live at
21 the same address as Ms. Meyers that testified earlier
22 tonight?

23 MR. MEYERS: I currently do, yes, sir.

24 MR. SETTINERI: Okay. And when did you
25 buy that acreage from Mr. Kinzer?

1 MR. MEYERS: Pardon?

2 MR. SETTINERI: You said you bought some
3 acreage from Mr. Kinzer.

4 MR. MEYERS: That is correct.

5 MR. SETTINERI: And when did you buy
6 that?

7 MR. MEYERS: I purchased part of his
8 farm. I believe it was 112 acres, and I also
9 purchased another 112 acres from right across the
10 road. It's -- actually connects to a very beautiful
11 area with natural archways and caves and a nice
12 stream that runs through it. And that's part of the
13 United States Government land which I am not sure --
14 I don't see anywhere other than maybe a small mention
15 of them. I don't know, you know, anything. I would
16 happily invite you guys to come down and take a
17 nature walk and take a tour and enjoy yourselves. I
18 might even prepare you a nice flatiron steak on the
19 grill for you.

20 MR. SETTINERI: That sounds good. But
21 when did you buy that acreage from Mr. Kinder?
22 That's what I was trying to get at.

23 MR. MEYERS: We closed on it in January.

24 MR. SETTINERI: January this year?

25 MR. MEYERS: Yes, sir.

1 MR. SETTINERI: Okay. Thank you, sir.

2 Thank you. No more questions, your

3 Honors.

4 Thank you, Mr. Meyers.

5 MR. MEYERS: You're welcome.

6 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you very much for your
7 testimony, sir. You have a good evening.

8 Okay. I see our next witness should be
9 Stanley Rolfe, III. Do we have him?

10 MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Rolfe, you've been
11 promoted. If you can enable your audio and video.

12 MR. ROLFE, III: Hello.

13 ALJ DAVIS: Hello. I can hear you. I
14 can't see you. There we go. I can see you. Hello,
15 sir. Good evening. Thanks for attending. If I
16 could start you off by asking you to raise your right
17 hand.

18 (Witness sworn.)

19 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. And could you
20 please state and spell your name for the record.

21 MR. ROLFE, III: My name is Stanley
22 Edward Rolfe, III, S-T-A-N-L-E-Y E-D-W-A-R-D
23 R-O-L-F-E, III.

24 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. Could you provide
25 your address including the township.

1 MR. ROLFE, III: 1383 Rolfe Road, same as
2 the last name, Greenfield, Ohio 45123. That's
3 Buckskin Township.

4 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir. And do you
5 reside or work within the project area?

6 MR. ROLFE, III: I reside.

7 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir. You may
8 proceed with your testimony.

9 MR. ROLFE, III: Good evening, ladies and
10 gentlemen. My name is Stanley Edward Rolfe, III. We
11 have a family farm here in Buckskin and Paint
12 Township that began back in 1966 when my grandfather
13 and my father purchased four farms to create -- to
14 create our family farm of 560 acres.

15 As anyone who is in farming knows, time
16 hasn't always been easy for us farmers. And the
17 future is never predictable or dependable with so
18 much that affects the quality and quantity of our
19 crops and who we pay how much for it and when.
20 Excuse me.

21 Actually back in the 1970s, my dad almost
22 had to sell the farm to some real estate company
23 because it was so tough. That is the reality of
24 farming. It's tough, but we're tough too. And we
25 are always looking for ways to create some kind of

1 stability and dependability for our family farm.

2 The Ross County Solar project will give
3 us that. The income will give and receive -- will
4 allow me to keep my land and pass it down to future
5 Rolfe generations. So it always has been and
6 probably always will be farming can be unpredictable,
7 but projects like this make farming more predictable,
8 more stable, more possible, and more likely to
9 continue the operation.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 ALJ DAVIS: Mr. Rolfe, if I can keep you
12 for just a minute here, did you have any questions,
13 Judge Agranoff?

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: I do not.

15 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you.

16 Mr. Settineri?

17 MR. SETTINERI: I do not. Thank you,
18 your Honor.

19 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you.

20 Thank you very much for your time,
21 Mr. Rolfe. You have a good evening.

22 MR. ROLFE, III: All right. You too.
23 Thank you.

24 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. Okay. I see our
25 next witness should be Stanley Rolfe, Jr.

1 MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Rolfe, you've been
2 promoted. If you can enable your audio and video.

3 MR. ROLFE, JR.: I'm here.

4 ALJ DAVIS: We can hear you. I can't see
5 you. Okay. There we are. Hello. Good evening,
6 sir. If we could start you off by asking you to
7 raise your right hand.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. Please state and
10 spell your full name for the record.

11 MR. ROLFE, JR.: Stanley E. Rolfe, Jr.,
12 S-T-A-N-L-E-Y initial E R-O-L-F-E, Jr.

13 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir. Could you
14 provide your address.

15 MR. ROLFE, JR.: 669 Rolfe Road,
16 Greenfield, Ohio 45123, Paint Township.

17 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir. And do you
18 reside or work within the project area?

19 MR. ROLFE, JR.: Yes, I do.

20 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. You may proceed
21 with your testimony.

22 ALJ AGRANOFF: If I --

23 MR. ROLFE, JR.: My name is Stanley
24 Rolfe. Our family farm has been operating here for
25 over 60 years.

1 ALJ DAVIS: I'm sorry, Mr. Rolfe. Can I
2 stop you for a second? I'm sorry.

3 Go ahead, Judge Agranoff.

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: I just wanted
5 clarification when you indicate that you either live
6 or work in the project area, is it both?

7 MR. ROLFE, JR.: Yes.

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

9 MR. ROLFE, JR.: I live on the farm, and
10 I farm.

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

12 MR. ROLFE, JR.: Okay. I will start
13 over. My name is Stanley Rolfe. Our family farm has
14 been operating here for almost 60 years. And as my
15 son Ed said, it hasn't always been easy. I've
16 considered -- almost sold my farm many times over the
17 years including one time when I had the opportunity
18 to sell the farm for a garbage dump, but I refused
19 that offer because I didn't think that was the right
20 thing to do for our community.

21 Now, I've signed up my land for the Ross
22 County Solar project, and I did this for two reasons.
23 One, it's my family's property and I should have the
24 ability to use it to make income to support my family
25 however I want. No. 2, I believe it will be good for

1 the community.

2 Unlike the garbage dump proposal I turned
3 down, this solar project won't smell, and it won't
4 make noise. It will just sit there like a field of
5 corn does. Plus it will give tax revenue to our
6 community, huge tax income for our schools which will
7 benefit everyone, towns, students, parents, teachers,
8 and what about taxpayers. If the solar project pays
9 tax revenues to our schools, maybe we won't see any
10 increase in our own taxes. Wouldn't that be nice?

11 I support the Ross County Solar for two
12 simple reasons, private property rights and benefits
13 to the community. Thank you very much.

14 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir. If I could
15 ask you to stick around for a minute here.

16 Judge Agranoff, do you have any
17 questions?

18 ALJ AGRANOFF: No other questions.

19 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you.

20 And Mr. Settineri?

21 MR. SETTINERI: No. Thank you for your
22 testimony, Mr. Rolfe.

23 No questions, your Honor.

24 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you.

25 Thank you for your testimony.

1 MR. ROLFE, JR.: Thank you very much.

2 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. Have a good
3 evening.

4 Okay. I see our last witness should be
5 James Rolfe.

6 MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Rolfe has been
7 promoted. If you can enable your video and audio.

8 MR. J. ROLFE: Can you folks hear me?

9 ALJ DAVIS: We can hear you.

10 MR. J. ROLFE: Okay.

11 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you.

12 MR. J. ROLFE: Raising my right hand.

13 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir. And could
16 you please state and spell your name for the record.

17 MR. J. ROLFE: James Rolfe, J-A-M-E-S
18 R-O-L-F-E.

19 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. And could you
20 provide your address including the township.

21 MR. J. ROLFE: Okay. I am at 6496 Rapid
22 Forge Road, Greenfield, Ohio 45123 in Paint Township.

23 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir. Do you
24 reside or work within the project area?

25 MR. J. ROLFE: I am retired, but I reside

1 in the property.

2 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

3 MR. J. ROLFE: On the property.

4 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. You may proceed
5 with your testimony.

6 MR. J. ROLFE: Okay. My name is James
7 Rolfe. And you have heard from a few of my relatives
8 here recently. Our family farm has been in our
9 family for many generations. And we'd never do
10 anything to put the farm in jeopardy. We have
11 thought long and hard about leasing our land to the
12 Ross County Solar project.

13 And in the end it makes sense. First, it
14 is clean. It is not dirty or polluting like coal
15 plants, and it's important that we help support
16 different ways to power our homes and our communities
17 that don't keep damaging our air and water.

18 Second, the land they use for the project
19 can be turned back into farming when the project is
20 done operating. That is important to me that we
21 create a good future for our children, one with clean
22 air and water and one with good food grown locally.

23 I thank you for your time.

24 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you very much, sir. If
25 I could ask you to stick around for a second here.

1 Judge Agranoff, any questions?

2 ALJ AGRANOFF: I just wanted to seek
3 clarification. So you are a participating landowner
4 for this project?

5 MR. J. ROLFE: Yes, I am.

6 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, Judge Agranoff.
7 Mr. Settineri?

8 MR. SETTINERI: No questions, your Honor.
9 Thank you.

10 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

11 Thank you, Mr. Rolfe. You have a good
12 evening. We appreciate you providing testimony.
13 Thank you.

14 MR. J. ROLFE: Thank you.

15 ALJ AGRANOFF: That concludes the
16 statements from the individuals who had registered to
17 provide testimony this evening. The Board
18 appreciates your participation in this public
19 hearing, and I would like to thank all those who
20 provided testimony or joined us for this hearing.
21 You may have experienced this hearing via Webex, over
22 the phone, or over the YouTube live stream.
23 Whichever way that you actually did observe the
24 hearing, we do appreciate your attendance.

25 With that this concludes today's public

1 hearing. We hope you enjoy the rest of your time,
2 and we are adjourned. Thank you.

3 (Thereupon, at 8:11 p.m., the hearing was
4 adjourned.)

5 - - -

6 CERTIFICATE

7 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
8 a true and correct transcript of the proceedings
9 taken by me in this matter on Tuesday, April 6, 2021,
10 and carefully compared with my original stenographic
11 notes.

12
13
14 Karen Sue Gibson, Registered
15 Merit Reporter.

16 (KSG-7060)

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Case No(s). 20-1380-EL-BGN

Summary: Transcript April 6, 2021

In the Matter of the Application of Ross County Solar LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Gibson, Karen Sue Mrs.