

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: comment for 20-1605
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Chair Ohio Power Siting Board,

I'm writing in support of the Birch Solar Project in Allen and Auglaize counties. I feel strongly that this project represents a powerful step forward, and I urge you to also support it.

Utility-scale solar power generation benefits all of Ohio, but revenue generated by the Birch Solar project amounts to a significant boost for township and county residents. I trust that neighbors who question the project will be heard and their concerns addressed, and then I urge you to act to make this project a success.

At least \$81 million in payments will be made over the 30-year life of the project. Close to 80% of that goes to Shawnee and Logan Townships and the local school districts, which will dramatically enhance their ability to serve their residents. The remaining 20% accrues to the counties and Apollo Career Center.

The project creates over 400 jobs for 18 months of construction, plus permanent jobs in ongoing maintenance. We would be foolish to let the company take this industry elsewhere.

But it's not just about the revenue for the region. America has decades of experience generating power with solar panels, and they're proven to be a safe, resilient and increasingly critical part of American energy independence.

Large-scale solar installations offer farmers the chance to diversify and strengthen their operations at a time when farm income is increasingly precarious. Once in place, this happens without any noise or pollution, at a cost that beats any other newly constructed power generation—now without the subsidies that made the technology viable. And after thirty years, the land can be easily returned to its present condition if some other need emerges. This is an industry we NEED contributing to the economy of Allen and Auglaize Counties!

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Summary: Public Comment of Sandra Kich, via website electronically filed by Docketing Staff
on behalf of Docketing