

July 13, 2021

Dear Ohio Power Siting Board

Our names are Michael and Annette Houck and we are landowners in Highland and Clinton Counties, Ohio. We would like to encourage the OPSB to offer Certification to Palomino Solar Project: Case Number 20-1680-EL-BGN; Yellow Wood Solar Project: Case Number 21-0041-EL-BGN; and Dodson Creek Solar Project: Case Number 20-1814-EL-BGN.

**RE: OPSB Public Meeting on July 8, 2021 at the Lynchburg Clay High School**

**Many negative comments were made regarding fencing around the Proposed Solar Projects in Highland County. And, how residents did not want this fencing. They referred to it as prison fence.**

**COMMON REASONS FOR FENCING**

- 1.) Fencing increases property value.** Real estate advisors will debate this BUT a fenced-in home is considered safer and more private than a home without a fence.
- 2.) Gives pets room and boundaries to run.** A privacy fence will keep your dog safe from road hazards and will prevent him from running away. You can let your dog run free knowing he is safe within your fenced area.
- 3.) Property fencing protects privacy.** A privacy fence protects you from wandering individuals and gives you more seclusion.
- 4.) Quality strength fencing keeps you safe.** It safeguards your property from trespassers and prevents outsiders from entering. A fence makes it harder for burglars to get into your space. It provides security for what is being kept inside.
- 5.) Protects your valuables.** Fencing in your area protects what you are keeping safe inside and protects the landowner from the liabilities associated with trespassers.
- 6.) Protection from unwanted noise.** Depending on the type of fence used; sound may become a barrier issue. An example is a stone wall fencing around interstates and high traffic areas. These stone walls can be very attractive and serve as a sound buffer for the noisy traffic while creating an attractive safety mechanism for homes on the other side with children and pets.
- 7.) Fences define space.** Property disputes will be minimized when boundaries are created by perimeter fencing. Neighbors can avoid disputes and recognize what they own and what their neighbors own.

Early in May 2021; NO SOLAR signs began appearing in the Highland County area. It was no surprise, as some non-participating landowners began opposing the upcoming Proposed Solar Projects. Land owners committed to the Proposed Solar Projects observed this and respected their views and signage display.

On Thursday, July 8, 2021; a public meeting was held at Lynchburg Clay High School as an opportunity for the Solar Opposition Group to voice their concerns to the OPSB. Several Pro-Solar constituents attended and respected those individuals and their concerns. We quietly listened and observed with respect to their concerns and issues that were brought forward.

On Friday, July 9, 2021; Southern Ohio FOR Solar Farms Group, began “PLANTING” signs on their properties. Within hours, these signs were **VANDALIZED** and are continuing to be **DEFACED**. Many have also **DISAPPEARED**; perhaps have been **STOLEN**. These signs are now disappearing on a daily basis and more paint is appearing on a daily basis.

**This is EXACTLY why fencing is IMPERATIVE for this project.** While these signs are a very low cost item: The activity occurring with these signs are a **CLASSIC EXAMPLE of why the rules are in place that Solar Projects have the fencing required for their projects.**

**Just to be CLEAR.** The crimes that have currently been committed are:

- 1.) Vandalism
- 2.) Trespassing
- 3.) Theft
- 4.) Landowner Property Infringement/  
Encroachment
- 5.) Violation of Freedom of Speech and  
Expression

The Sheriff’s Department has been called; HOWEVER, these offenses, while PUNITIVE; do NOT WARRANT any ARRESTS at this time; due to the nature of the crimes committed -- the initial sign cost amount would be petty. As landowners, we clearly understand our Sheriff’s Department time is more valuably needed fighting more serious criminal activity BUT we clearly want it on record that the behavior of the Solar Opposers is that of common criminals.

At the Lynchburg Clay High School meeting; these very opposers begged the OPSB to side with them and defend their cause. If they would like your help; before considering doing that; please consider their current dubious activities.



*It is within our American Rights to post signs and plant Solar Panels on our farms.*



*Defacing our Freedom of Speech and Expression is a clear violation of our Amendments.*



*With the passage of each day, more signs are being defaced and more signs are disappearing. We are shown NO RESPECT*

As landowners who support the Progress of the Solar Movement into the area, we also support our law enforcement and all the elected officials and all the OPSB members who are working hard to keep us safe and consider ALL factors necessary to make the BEST DECISIONS for all citizens of our county, our state, our country and our world.

Clean energy is something that we ALL need to consider doing. Climate change is REAL and it is affecting our daily lives. These issues are CHALLENGING enough without the addition of PUNITIVE activities to yard signs, name-calling and nasty face-book posts. It is time for us to be working together to solve the reduction of carbon emissions to the ozone layer and take responsibility for the world we are leaving to our grandchildren.

If these Solar Opposers can come up with a better LEGAL way to solve this BIGGER CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUE then perhaps we could share a table and amicable dialogue at that time. But for now, sneaking around in the dark of night with a Red Spray Can of paint appears to be the mentality of what we are dealing with.

Once again, I want to thank you for your service on the OPSB. As these projects continue to move forward; doing your job has become increasingly challenging. With the passage of SB52, as landowners, we feel these same challenges at the local level since SB52 allows this feuding to gain momentum at the County Level. Our world is NOT PERFECT, but as farmers, we are doing our job as best we can despite the imposition of urban sprawl; and ask you the OPSB to join us and do the same: "What is in the best interest for everyone?" Clean energy is NECESSARY -- and protection for the Solar Companies and Solar Landowners may become imminent based on the current actions of these individuals who do not like Pro-Solar Signage.

Thank You for your time,



Michael G. Houck



Annette M. Houck



*We have not bothered the NO SOLAR display. We hve respected their rights.*



*NO SOLAR signs are in yards - NOT fields. They appear to be ONLY concerned for themselves and NOT the larger picture of sequestering carbon emissions and protecting the ozone layer for our grandchildren and future generations.*



*Even through feudal times, the Solar Sign amidst the ragweed and the board fence echoes a natural beauty that ONLY a farmer would appreciate.*

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

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Summary: Public Comment of Michael G. Houck and Annette M. Houck, via website,  
electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing