

Before the Ohio Power Siting Board  
Testimony in Support of  
July 19, 2021

Dear Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board:

On behalf of the Columbus Partnership, I urge you and your colleagues to support the proposed construction of this 250-megawatt solar-powered electric generation facility located in Pleasant and Prairie townships, Franklin County, Ohio. The Pleasant Prairie Solar Energy Center will provide significant benefits for businesses and organizations across our Central Ohio community as our region and state continues to focus on job creation and economic prosperity.

The Columbus Partnership is a non-profit, membership-based leadership organization of 80 chairpersons, chief executive officers, and senior executives from the region's leading businesses and institutions. Our members include 15 Fortune 1000 CEOs, leaders of the nation's largest university and world's largest research and development organization and many key players in the auto and clean energy industries.

Businesses and institutions in our 11-counties have made the Columbus Region their home because of our business-friendly environment. Currently, the Columbus Region has more than 20 companies considering capital investment amounts of over \$24.5 billion, in turn creating over 26,000 jobs. Each of those investment opportunities either requires or prefers renewables as the source of energy. Over time, these companies have chosen to become increasingly invested in solar energy procurement for their facilities and operations that are located as close as possible to their facilities.

There must be a commitment to offering renewable energy that comes from Ohio so companies can have a positive impact on the state where they operate. Demand for this is clear, with Columbus Partnership member organizations including AEP, Huntington, Cardinal Health, Abercrombie & Fitch Co., Denison University and The Ohio State University purchasing large amounts of Ohio-based renewable energy. Other entities, including five of our major partners, also affirm that the demand for Ohio-based clean energy is growing at a rapid pace.

There are now over 118,500 residents employed at 155 facilities with renewable energy goals and major investments in solar energy all across Central Ohio's counties. These companies have expressed a desire and interest in investing in and buying power specifically from new Ohio solar projects so that their procurement is more impactful to the Ohio economy, supports new job creation, generates new tax revenue for Ohio municipalities and improves air quality locally.

The Pleasant Prairie Solar Energy Center will power 45,000 homes annually, provide \$59 million in landowner payments, 800 construction jobs, and \$4.4 million in annual local investment. Approval and development of projects such as the Pleasant Prairie Solar Energy Center will continue to show our region remains pro-business and pro-community investment, especially during our economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I urge you to approve the Pleasant Prairie Solar Energy Center, and I appreciate the Board's willingness to thoroughly review the project and encourage public participation. We thank Invenergy for their willingness to consider Central Ohio for project investment and development. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. R. Fischer', written in a cursive style.

Alex R. Fischer  
President and CEO

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

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**Case No(s). 20-1679-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment of Alex R. Fischer, President and CEO, Columbus Partnership,  
via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing