



Franklin County
Board of Commissioners

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

Docketing Division
ATTN: Ohio Power Siting Board
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215
RE: Case Number: 20-1679-EL-BGN

July 19, 2021

Dear Ohio Power Siting Board,

It is a core principle of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to provide good stewardship of natural resources and promote investments in environmental sustainability. In furtherance of these goals, the Board has made investments in energy upgrades to downtown buildings, promoted safe and clean water systems, and enforced zoning and building codes which improve the life, health and safety of county residents.

Additionally, to better understand energy usage in the county and identify areas of additional opportunity to promote sustainability, the Board commissioned a 2018 Franklin County Energy Study by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. The study found that most energy consumed in Franklin County comes from outside the county, resulting in inefficiencies and county residents and businesses spending more on energy than what is necessary.

As the solar industry evolves, and state policies along with it, it is our desire to keep pace with changing needs of private sector alternative energy development by creating favorable and streamlined conditions for the generation of “clean” power in the county. Therefore, the Commissioners have designated the entirety of Franklin County an Alternative Energy Zone (AEZ) pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5727.75 and declared all applications submitted under this provision to be approved. Diversification of our energy grid with the inclusion of alternative energy sources makes our grid more resilient to environmental stresses and population growth, provides better air quality, and improves energy reliability for all Franklin County residents.

I am pleased to see Invenergy’s significant proposed investment in the Pleasant Prairie Energy Center. Invenergy is a leader in solar development across America, and the Pleasant Prairie Energy Center will bring additional investment

Director
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dollars into the community while advancing Franklin County's mission of sourcing local renewable energy and decreasing carbon emissions.

We are very excited Invenergy wants to expand their investment in our local community and workforce. Representatives from Invenergy have held public forums, both in person and virtually, to answer questions from residents, local officials, and the business community about the project, and they have shared that their relationship to the community is of the utmost importance to them. I look forward to continuing to partner with Invenergy to improve Franklin County – both environmentally and economically.

Sincerely,

 7.16.2021

James Schimmer

Director Franklin County Economic Development and Planning

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Summary: Public Comment of James Schimmer, Director, Franklin County Economic Development and Planning, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing