

Cathy Cowan Becker

Ohio

Power Siting
Board

Public Hearing

Case number

PLEASE SIGN-IN ONLY IF YOU WISH TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY

Hearing Date:

Name (Please Print)

Address

☒ Anthony Sasson

8357 Patterson Rd, Hilliard OH 43026

☒ ~~Anthony Sasson~~

~~10602 Patterson Rd, Hilliard OH 43026~~

☒ Mike Morey

602 Frazier Rd. N. Cozumel, OH 43207

☒ Joe Stahl

8542 Canyon Cove Rd, Oakley, OH 43044

☒ Doris Hager

2080 Collins Rd, Mt. Kisco, OH 43080

☒ Patrick Hook

1503 Glen Ave, Col, OH 43212

☒ Scott Newbury

966 Mainland Rd

☒ Brian Weaver

Pleasant Twp

☒ James Sedman

Franklin County 150 S. Fair C. Blvd 43215

10. ~~Butt~~

~~Butt~~

2nd Sheet

2



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Hearing Date:

Name (Please Print)

Address

11. ~~Lorraine Cathala~~

4750 Elliot Rd Hilliard 43026

12. ~~Frank Whl II~~

1188 Dublin Rd Cols Ohio 43215

13. ~~SEff MINDICK~~

700 MURRAY Rd 43119

14. ~~ERNO RUOD~~

4694 COMPTON RD #377
HILLIARD OH 43028

15. ~~LORI WILDE~~

6833 AVON DR GC OH 43123

16. ~~RIC DUEEN~~

7788 KILCIRE RD GALLOWAY 43119

17. ~~Clair Reynolds~~

7300 W Broad St Galloway 43119

18. ~~Squire Galbreath~~

925 Darby Creek Dr Galloway 43119

19. ~~COREY HUNT~~

2417 Darby Creek Dr 43119

20. ~~Nancy Day-Achauer~~

5951 Lucels Ct Chas 43228

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3

Ohio | Power Siting Board

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Address

~~21~~ Jason Parrish

3093 Sunset Dr Columbus, OH 43202

~~22~~ Jim Ramsay

970 Dublin Rd. Col. OH 43215

~~23~~ Ron Gasaway

5471 Baneberry Ave Col. OH 43235

~~24~~ ~~LEW~~ HORSTWITZ

350 PLAINCITY-GEORGETOWN RD.

25.

26.

27.

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30.



Power Siting Board

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Hearing Date:

Name (Please Print)

Address

31. JANE HART - GEO

275 SPRING ST GRANVILLE OH 43022

32. Stephen Tucker

2801 Canterbury Rd, Columbus OH 43221

33. ASHLEY HOYE

801 DARBY CREEK DR, GALLOWAY OH 43119

34. TIM FERRO

1324-C LAKE SHORE DR. COLS, 43204

35. PATRICIA MARTHA

1710 DORSETSHIRE RD, COLS 43229

36. Sarah Buck - Graft

50 Orchard Ln, Columbus OH 43214

37. Abigail Zhang

84 West Rich St Columbus OH 43215

38. JILL DREXEL

7617 KUTHELEN RD GALLOWAY OH 43119

39.

40.

Ohio | Power Siting Board

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Hearing Date:

Name (Please Print)

Address

✓ 41. Diane Sullivan	8025 W Broad St. Galloway Oh 43119	
42.		
43.		
44.		
45.		
46.		
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50.		

Cathy Cowan Becker

USE

Chair French and members of the Ohio Power Siting Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you tonight. My name is Cathy Cowan Becker, and I am chair of Ready for 100 Ohio, a campaign of the Sierra Club to ask cities to commit to 100% renewable energy. I am also executive director of Simply Living, a Columbus nonprofit that promotes sustainability, environmental awareness, and our local economy. I am also a member of the sustainability committees for both Columbus and Grove City.

That's a lot of titles, but at heart I am a climate activist, as well as a neighbor of the Pleasant Prairie Solar Energy Center – and in every one of these capacities, I strongly support this project.

As a climate activist, I am used to reading bad news about storms, droughts, floods, heat waves, and melting ice. But with increasing frequency a climate story crosses my desk that turns my stomach. Last week was such a story – of over 1 billion sea creatures – mussels, clams, sea stars, and snails – literally cooked to death by the heatwave in the Pacific Northwest.

I bring this up because the Big Darby Creek, near where the Pleasant Prairie Solar Energy Center is proposed to go, is home to 44 species of mussels, some of which are rare or endangered. During my local conversations about how the Pleasant Prairie project might affect these species, I have rarely heard anyone mention the effects of the climate crisis.

Yet if left unchecked, the climate crisis will do more damage to Darby Creek, and the creatures that live in it, than this solar project ever could. I hope that you as members of the Ohio Power Siting Board will keep in mind the urgency of the climate crisis when making your decisions about renewable energy projects in Ohio, the sixth-highest carbon-emitting state.

I became a climate activist because of the enormous gulf between what the science says must be done and what we are actually doing to safeguard our health and environment.

In 2017 I founded the Columbus Ready for 100 campaign. With the help of other volunteers, we organized and led dozens of meetings and events; tabled at community festivals; held neighborhood dialogues; and collected over 5,000 signatures on our petition asking the city of Columbus to commit to 100% renewable energy.

One major step we see for cities in Ohio to reach this goal is electric aggregation for 100% renewable energy. We began talking to Columbus city leaders about this years ago.

Cincinnati has long been aggregated for 100% renewable energy, and Worthington took this step in 2018. But these cities began their programs by buying renewable energy certificates, or RECs.

RECs are not bad – they support renewable energy overall, and bring down the cost for everyone. But they are not the same as generating renewable energy at home. They send our money out of state instead of investing in our local community.

For that reason, Ready for 100 asked the city of Columbus not just to pursue aggregation for 100% renewable energy, but also commit to seeking **local** sources of renewable energy, through construction of renewable energy projects here in Ohio, preferably in Central Ohio.



Darby Creek Association
Public Hearing Statement to the Ohio Power Siting Board
Regarding Pleasant Prairie Solar Energy Project, Case Number 20-1679-EL-BGN
Summary statement –
see full version provided to the OPSB by email
July 19, 2021
Copy to: contactOPSB@puco.ohio.gov

My name is Anthony Sasson. Along with Charlie Staudt, also in attendance, I am representing the Darby Creek Association (DCA). The DCA is a volunteer organization that has existed since 1972 with the purpose of protecting the National Scenic River Big Darby Creek and the outstanding natural environment in the watershed.

This proposed Pleasant Prairie Solar facility represents a significant threat to that environment and the quality of Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, one of central Ohio's best attractions, with 1.3 million visits in 2020. While we like solar energy and abhor climate change, Ohio can do two things at once. We must protect - and improve - the local environment while reducing emissions, and we must also mitigate locally. We hope environmental advocates will agree. Also, we are not asking for a facility that is just better than agriculture. We are asking for a commitment to a "greener" solar facility that is appropriate and adequate for the setting. That effort should go significantly beyond compliance and recognize the public support for the Metro Parks and the 50-year+ effort that has gone into protecting and enhancing this outstanding natural environment. Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park is the revered center of that protection effort.

The proposed facility has a significant footprint immediately adjacent to Battelle Darby Metro Park or within sight of the park, including from busy roads such as US 40 and Darby Creek Drive leading to and near park entrances, and from the Darby Creek Greenway trail. Negative impacts from the proposed facility need to be reduced and this park must be protected well beyond compliance with minimum requirements.

It is DCA's position that this facility's application to the Ohio Power Siting Board and the "Recommended Conditions of Certificate" in the staff report of July 1, 2021, are not adequate to protect Battelle Darby Metro Park, such as, but not limited to, its aesthetics and visitor experience, wildlife and vegetation. We ask that the comments provided in the full version of DCA's statement dated today, and DCA's previous comments to the Ohio Power Siting Board, including those of July 1, and others, be fully addressed before certification is granted.

Importantly, we request that all of the issues in Metro Parks' Petition for Leave to Intervene be fully addressed to the satisfaction of Metro Parks.

The staff report and application imply that plant species not native to the Darby Plains could be planted. Instead, only species native to the Darby Plains should be planted and maintained.

Unidentified wetlands and “Anticipated Tree Clearing” of potential wetland areas

The application and report have not addressed certain wetlands that should be protected. The application proposes tree clearing for at least two wetland areas the National Wetland Inventory identified.

Wetland buffers

The proposed facility's proposed wetland buffers are not adequate.

Inadequate consideration and accommodation of trail connection to conservation areas to the east, and for the Ohio to Erie/Camp Chase Trail (east from Battelle Darby Metro Park, near and along Alkire Road between Kropp Road and Galloway)

The proposed facility should ensure, to Metro Parks' satisfaction, a trail connection to conservation land to the east.

Stream buffers

The project should maximize the width and vegetation quality of stream buffers, and avoid mowing.

Hydrology

The proposed facility could considerably improve hydrology related to stream health in the Big Darby Creek watershed by maximizing groundwater recharge.

Monitoring

The applicant should establish an adequate fund for continuous monitoring of biological conditions within the facility, on adjacent Metro Parks land, and other sites.

Summary

In summary, the siting of this facility in the Big Darby Creek watershed deserves greater protection of the local environment than proposed. We ask for conditions and a commitment to a “greener” solar facility that is appropriate for the setting, significantly beyond compliance and meets the concerns of the Metro Parks Petition for Leave to Intervene. Those conditions must protect Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park; DCA is not satisfied that they do so.

Good evening. My name is Joe Stahl, I am a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 683. I live very close to where the Pleasant Prairie Solar project will be constructed.

I speak tonight in support of the construction jobs this project will bring to our community. The Hundreds of jobs that will be created during the construction phase of this project are critical for our community. It is my hope that these jobs will be good, union jobs. Utility-scale solar projects, like Pleasant Prairie bring with them the opportunity for life-long careers in the construction field.

I can speak from experience that my career as an Electrician with Local 683 has provided for my family and allowed me to live comfortably in this community. Again, I speak tonight in full support of this project and am excited about the jobs it will bring to our area.

Thank you for your time.

My name is Dorsey Hager and I am the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Columbus/Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council. The "Columbus Building Trades" represents 18,000 highly skilled trades people in Columbus and Central Ohio.

Solar farms are **Environmentally Friendly**, Capturing the sun's energy to generate electricity, they feed into local and regional power grids. In and of themselves, they release no harmful atmospheric emissions, which is good news for the climate.

Solar farms are **Sustainable**. Regular consumers of electricity like to know that its power source will be available, not only today, but well into the future. Solar farms produce energy by using sunshine that renews itself almost every day.

Solar farms are **Quiet** and efficient.

I respectfully stand before you today to offer my support for the ~~proposed solar field project~~ here in Franklin County.

PLEASANT Prairie
Solar
Project

This project will not only provide clean energy to the residents of Ohio, but also well paying Building Trades jobs to Franklin County residents that pay top wages and benefits. Electricians, Ironworkers, Sheet Metal Workers, Laborers, Cement Masons, Operating Engineers – just to name some of the trades that will build and maintain this project. - - - ALL building trades' members earn good wages with health and retirement benefits so that they may provide a solid middle class living for themselves and their families and when their career is over – and retire comfortably with dignity and respect.

The Columbus Building Trades fully supports this and all solar projects in Ohio.

DORSEY HAGER, JR.



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/TREASURER
COLUMBUS/CENTRAL OHIO BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION
TRADES COUNCIL

Scott Newbury - NO PRAIRIE SOLAR

Good evening, my name is Scott Newbury with No Prairie Solar LLC. No Prairie Solar is a large group of interested property owners, including property owners who reside in or adjacent to the Project area. The group was formed to voice our concerns about the Prairie Solar Project, concerns which have not and are not being raised by any other existing party to the proceeding.

Members of No Prairie Solar LLC have raised these concerns throughout the process of this Project, including with the Applicant and at multiple township meetings. However, it is important to note that, to date, no party in this case, including the township, has represented our interests and concerns. As such, we were forced to organize and intervene in order to make sure the Board hears our concerns.

We filed a timely intervention in June, and pursuant to the Administrative Law Judge's directive, a reply in support of our intervention was filed early on Friday. We firmly believe that we should be granted intervention in this case and given the rights as a full party of record, including, but not limited to, the right to participate in the evidentiary hearing.

However, despite the ALJ's directive to file our reply early, we still have not received a decision on our intervention. As such, our status as a full party of record to this case remains unclear.

Given that we intend to participate in the evidentiary hearing as a party with fact and expert testimony and since we thought we would know the status of that timely and valid intervention by tonight, we did not plan to nor want to duplicate testimony here. But since we do not yet have party status and to ensure that the Board knows that we have concerns that need to be heard, and since no other party will adequately represent our concerns, I wanted to provide some limited testimony tonight on the record. Those concerns include:

The placement of ^{hundreds} thousands of acres of solar panels and fences surrounding 21 of the Members' properties and on the public roads near the Members' properties is not in the public interest as it will spoil the visual and aesthetic enjoyment of living and working there.

The Application is not in the public interest and may have an adverse environmental impact as it fails to adequately evaluate, mitigate, and prepare for site equipment fire and other emergency events.

The Application is not in the public interest as it fails to adequately provide financial assurance (e.g., bonding) for decommissioning, fire, flood, tornado or other catastrophic events.

Finally, the Application is not in the public interest as it fails to adequately evaluate and address negative impact on residential property values.

While, for the sake of efficiency, I am the only member of No Prairie Solar testifying tonight, I am far from the only member to share these concerns. A large number of us came out tonight, many in red, to support the concerns that I just read. Would all the members of No Prairie Solar that share these concerns please raise their hands?

Thank you for your time tonight.

Prairie Twnshp solar

4750 Elliott Rd Hilliard
Brown Township
frequent park user

From: Lorraine Cathala (mailto:lorraine.cathala@brown-twp.org)

To: lorraine.cathala@brown-twp.org

Date: Monday, July 19, 2021, 03:32 PM EDT

Prairie Twnshp solar

- I'm really excited to see central Ohio ~~get~~ pursue it's 100% clean energy goals
- The proposed plan is a good start but it needs **significant refinement**, specifically, further protection for: wildlife, the Battelle Darby Metro Park, and our state and national scenic river the Big Darby Creek. Local landowners and park visitors also deserve preservation of the rural setting.
- I would like to see the project proceed, but only after it addresses these protections and those in the metro park's Leave to Intervene Petition
- I defer to the Metro Parks on the details, but here are some plan improvements I request you consider:
- The vegetation management plan **must adhere** to recommendations of the Darby Creek Association and the Columbus Metro Parks regarding species and genotype selection and management approach. Under **no** circumstances should **non-local** species be introduced.
- Wildlife friendly fencing **must** be used and should be screened by local native plants like virginia creeper to lessen the visual impact of the facility. Setbacks must be sufficient to accomplish screening acceptable to the metro parks and local residents.
- Water management must capture runoff and slowly release it into the Darby Creek. All existing wetlands must be retained. I assume additional artificial wetlands will need to be created. These need to be true wetlands that are beneficial to wildlife and not retention ponds. Allow for the construction of bird blinds and observation areas by these wetlands. Birding is one of our top national hobbies.
- Design the installation for minimal soil disruption such that the installation can be completely removed at the end of useful life. This means no concrete footings, no buried infrastructure, and the fewest possible gravel surfaces.
- Write into the permit a permanent conservation easement for the land after the facility shuts down, and include a first right of refusal clause for sale of the land to the metro parks.
- Use wildlife friendly or no permanent lighting
- Time construction to avoid conflicts with nesting and migration
- Provide one location with solar educational displays for park visitors

• No Prairie Solar comments - not in the public good = not in the private good
I believe supporters agree with some of the reservations but believe these can be

Thank you for the opportunity to show my support for a **revised** plan for this solar facility. The benefits could be wonderful, but only if they are achieved without harm to the Big Darby watershed, Battelle Darby Metro Park, wildlife, and local landowners' and park visitor desires for maintaining the rural landscape. Let's choose to make this a model project for integrating landscape scale solar into a rural community while not diminishing the quality of life for landowners, park visitors, and wildlife.

Sent from my iPad

resolved cooperatively ~~or~~ with a mutually agreeable outcome. We shouldn't throw out the baby with the bathwater.

IUOE Local 18 Business Representative
Frank Uhl & Jon Townsend

1188 Dublin Rd. Columbus Oh, 43215

On behalf of the Operating Engineers Local Union 18, I am here to support the approval of the Pleasant Prairie Solar project.

The Operating Engineers are the individuals who operate heavy equipment such as bulldozers, excavators, backhoes, forklifts and so on. The roads and bridges you drive on were most likely built by members of Local 18 along with our fellow Union trades men and women.

Although we do not have an agreement signed with Pleasant Prairie Solar Energy, LLC to perform the work associated with this project, we believe our Local signatory contractors will secure this work, thus providing our membership with numerous employment opportunities. In turn high paying wages, health care benefits and apprenticeship programs can continue to grow because of the Solar Industry.

If approved the Pleasant Prairie Solar will not only create jobs but you can expect an economic impact, additional tax money and clean energy for Ohio as a result from the project.

We encourage the Ohio Power Siting Board to support the jobs of the men and women of Local 18 by approving the Pleasant Prairie Solar.

I am the Rev. Nancy Day-Achauer, I have served the Prairie Township community in many capacities since 2012. This proposed facility will be located 15 minutes from my home and along the boundary of the Westland Area Commission where I serve as the chair of Public Health and Safety. The proposed facility is also within the service area of the Prairie Township Community Health Action Team (a program of Franklin County Public Health) which I co-chair.

I attended a presentation by Invenergy and am satisfied that they are conducting thorough due diligence for the purpose of identifying and responding to the environmental needs of our native plants and wildlife and will also meet the necessary requirements for protecting our watershed.

I am pleased that the property owners providing land for this project have chosen to exercise their property owners' rights in a way that also benefits the community and the environment. They could have done like property owners in northern Union County and put in a chicken farm or a hog farm which the land is zoned for. They

Kori Gasaway 5471 Baneberry Ave Columbus, Ohio 43235

Today I am speaking on behalf of Columbus Audubon and its membership of nearly 3,000 Central Ohioans who support our mission to promote the appreciation, understanding and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitats, for present and future generations.

We at Columbus Audubon understand that investing in solar energy will help to reduce carbon pollution and protect birds threatened by climate change. However, it is imperative that the development of renewable energy projects and technologies avoid, minimize, or effectively mitigate negative impacts to birds and their habitat. Research shows us that solar arrays can serve as habitat for a variety of wildlife, but must be carefully planned and thoughtfully executed to prevent unintended negative consequences to the ecosystem. This is even more imperative for a project in the Darby Plains region. Columbus Audubon's primary concern is that the integrity of the Darby Plains habitat be maintained through the planting of local genotype native plants, implementation of an invasive species management plan, and minimization of light pollution to protect the habitat that Ohioans have worked to rebuild over the past 50 years.

Millions of taxpayer dollars have been invested in the restoration of this unique 385 square mile ecoregion to its current state. Three of these projects are directly adjacent to the proposed solar array: Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks' outstanding Battelle Darby Metro Park, City of Columbus' restoration of Clover Groff Run, and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's restoration of Hellbranch Run. As these projects took shape we watched in awe as birds that are rare to Central Ohio such as Sandhill Cranes, Henslow's Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks, Bell's Vireos, Common Gallinules, and many more that I simply don't have time to list, returned to this place to breed, after being extirpated from the area long ago due to widespread agricultural land use. These three major projects taken on by three public agencies and myriad local, state, and national partners represent the focused intent of Central Ohioans to restore and protect the Darby Plains.

Invenergy is in a unique position to connect these conservation project areas, expand upon current conservation efforts and continue Central Ohio's shared goal of restoring the Darby Plains. To ensure continuity of habitat from the Metro Park, through the project area, and on to Hellbranch Meadows and Clover Groff, we request that Invenergy uses only Darby Plains native species, and native genotypes when possible, in its project plantings, including landscape screenings and perimeter plantings. The three existing projects worked hand in hand with Metro Parks to be sure we were meeting the specific habitat needs of the species that call the Darby Plains home.

A project like this also necessitates an invasive species management plan. Disturbed soil from the installation of this project will be an open door to invasive species seeds, and once plants such as Cattails, Amur Honeysuckle, Callery Pear and many others become established they can quickly overtake the project's native species. Not only does this result



Statewide Contact Information: P.O. Box 521 • Granville, Ohio 43023 • 614-902-2465 • www.GreenEnergyOhio.org

Ohio Power Siting Board Public Hearing
July 19, 2021

Good evening, my name is Jane Harf, and I am the Executive Director of Green Energy Ohio (GEO). Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of the Pleasant Prairie Solar Energy Center in Franklin County currently under development by Invenergy.

Green Energy Ohio (GEO) is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable energy policies, technologies, and practices through education and outreach. We represent a diverse membership of individuals, businesses, community and government entities, and academic institutions who share GEO's mission. Green Energy Ohio has members and supporters throughout the state, including many in the Central Ohio area.

The GEO Statement of Policy Positions endorses investment in utility-scale solar projects for the broad range of economic and environmental benefits that these facilities provide. First and foremost, local communities are the beneficiaries of these projects, through substantial Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) that support local school districts and municipal services. For example, it is estimated that the South-Western City School District, Ohio's sixth largest public school district, could receive more than \$1 million dollars annually from this project. This is in addition to monies for townships, libraries, fire districts, and other local entities.

At the same time, GEO recognizes that there is more to being a good neighbor than funding, and we applaud the efforts that Invenergy has made to hear and address concerns of community members throughout the process – both residents whose land they will be leasing and those who live nearby the proposed site. Their commitment to 80% local construction labor is yet another way to ensure that Ohioans are benefitting.

The need for clean, affordable renewable energy generated by large-scale solar farms is constantly increasing, driven by the demands of corporations with aggressive sustainability goals and municipal governments – like Columbus – who have committed to reducing their carbon footprint through aggregation. In a summer of intense heat in the western U.S., catastrophic flooding in Europe, and the early onset of the hurricane season, we must take into account the environmental value of adding renewable resources to the energy grid. Having just completed GEO's Statewide Electric Vehicle Tour, I have become even more aware of the climate impact of the transportation sector. As a measure of benefit, this project is estimated to reduce emissions equivalent to taking over 55,000 internal combustion engine automobiles off the road.

Thank you for your time, and I appreciate your consideration of our remarks.

PLEASANT PRAIRIE SOLAR

JULY 19, 2021

GOOD EVENING CHAIRWOMAN FRENCH AND VOTING MEMBERS OF THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

MY NAME IS ASHLEY HOYE AND I PROUDLY RESIDE AT 801 DARBY CREEK DR REAR GALLOWAY OHIO.

THAT IS CORRECT, PROUDLY RESIDE. I HAVE LIVED ON THE FAR WESTSIDE OF FRANKLIN COUNTY SINCE

2001 AND AS YOU CAN TELL FROM MY ACCENT I WAS NOT ORIGINALLY FROM THIS AREA, I CALLED NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

HOME FOR THE FIRST 22 YEARS OF MY LIFE. I MOVED TO AMERICA IN 1995

BECAME A UNITED STATES CITIZEN AND HAVE LIVED IN

GALLOWAY OHIO FOR NOW 20 YEARS. I HAVE PUT DEEP ROOTS DOWN IN THIS COMMUNITY MARRING

MY WIFE JODI IN GALLOWAY AND RAISING OUR SON HERE AS WELL. I TRULY LOVE THIS PART OF FRANKLIN

COUNTY SO MUCH THAT I WANTED TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY SO OVER 18 + YEARS AGO I JOINED

WESTLAND AREA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, THE WESTLAND AREA COMMISSION, FRANKLIN COUNTY

PLANNING COMMISSION AND WAS ASKED BY THE PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES TO REPRESENT THEM

AS A MEMBER OF THE DISTINGUISHED BIG DARBY ACCORD ADVISORY PANEL WHICH I ACCEPTED AND CURRENTLY HOLD

THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN. MY ROOTS ARE DEEP IN THIS COMMUNITY I LOVE.

YOU ALL SIT BEFORE ME AS PIONEERS, THAT'S RIGHT PIONEERS. IN TWENTY, THIRTY 100 YEARS FROM

PEOPLE IN THIS COMMUNITY WILL BE TALKING ABOUT ALL OF YOU BECAUSE YOU APPROVED THIS FIRST

MEGA WATT SOLAR FACILITY IN FRANKLIN COUNTY OHIO. WHAT AN HONOR IT WILL BE FOR YOU ALL TO HAVE

YOU'RE NAMES AND REPUTATIONS CONNECTED TO THIS GROUND BREAKING PROJECT. YOU WILL BE

PIONEERS. THE LOCAL COMMUNITY OF GALLOWAY WILL FLOURISH WITH APPROVAL OF THIS PROJECT

WITH 800 LOCAL JOBS CREATED, GALLOWAYS HOTELS, SHOPS, RESTAURANTS, BARS AND SCHOOLS WILL

BE BURSTING AT THE SEAMS. I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED TO SEE THEM AT FULL CAPACITY FOR MANY

YEARS TO COME AND SPARK AN INCREASE OF MORE BUSINESSES TO THIS COMMUNITY.

IT WILL BE FANTASTIC FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES. I HAVE SPOKEN TO MANY OF THE

WESTLAND AREA BUSINESS OWNERS AND MANY ARE PROJECTING HUGE POTENTIAL

GROWTH ONCE THIS PROJECT IS APPROVED. I SEE THIS AS A BOOM FOR THIS NEGLECTED SIDE OF

FRANKLIN COUNTY. I HEAR ALL THE TIME FROM MY COMMUNITY "HOW CAN WE MAKE THE SCHOOL

SYSTEM BETTER"? HERE IS YOUR CHANCE. ANNUALLY THEY WILL RECEIVE OVER \$1.1 MILLION DOLLARS

WITHOUT ASKING THE LOCAL HOME OWNERS TO PAY A PENNY MORE IN TAXES OR LEVIES. WE ALL

KNOW WHY OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT DO WELL ARE DOING WELL BECAUSE THEY HAVE DOLLARS.

IT'S PLAIN AND SIMPLY. HOW CAN WE HELP OUR PLEASANT AND PRAIRIE TOWNSHIPS? APPROVE THIS PROJECT!

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE OUR FIRE DISTRICTS? APPROVE THIS PROJECT. HOW CAN WE IMPROVE OUR

SOUTHWEST PUBLIC LIBRARY'S? APPROVE THIS PROJECT. HOW CAN WE IMPROVE FRANKLIN COUNTY?

APPROVE THIS PROJECT. ALL TOLD OVER \$1.75 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR WILL BE INJECTED INTO

THESE ENTITIES. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.

I WANTED TO FINISH MY SPEECH TODAY BY TELLING YOU ALL THAT EVER SINCE

OUR FIRST CORRESPONDENCE WITH INVENERGY WE HAVE HAD NOTHING BUT HONESTY, TRUST AND

LOYALTY FROM THEM. INVENERGY HAS ANSWERED ALL OF OUR EMAILS AND PHONE CALLS IN A TIMELY

MANNER, INVENERGY HAS JUMPED "ALL IN" TO THIS COMMUNITY, REACHED OUT TO ALL SURROUNDING

LAND OWNERS AND HAVE ATTENDED MANY COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO ADDRESS CONCERNS.

INVENERGY IS TRANSPARENT AND WILL INSURE THIS PROJECT IS HANDLED FROM START TO FINISH

WITH THE CARE AND DUE DILIGENCE REQUIRED. INVENERGY KNOWS THAT THE BIG DARBY CREEK IS AN AMAZING RESOURCE THAT THIS AREA NEEDS TO PROTECT FOR THE NEXT MILLENNIUM AND WILL BE PAYING FOR MONITORING BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THIS PROJECT IS APPROVED.

MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES KNOW THAT THIS CREEK WILL ONLY THRIVE FROM LESS CHEMICAL AND

FERTILIZER RUN OFF FROM TAKING OUT 2500 ACRES OF SURROUNDING CROP AND SOD FARM LAND BY APPROVING

THIS PROJECT. AS A COMMUNITY WE ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING BY BEING ON BOARD.

I CAN ONLY SEE THIS PLEASANT/PRAIRIE RENEWABLE ENERGY CENTER BEING A FEATHER IN THE CAP OF

THE COMMUNITY FRANKLIN COUNTY AND OHIO. PEOPLE WILL TRAVEL FROM FAR AND WIDE TO SEE

THIS SOLAR FARM, THEY WILL VISIT THIS MAGNIFICENT BATTELLE DARBY NATURE CENTER, THEY WILL

EAT AT OUR RESTAURANTS, STAY AT OUR HOTELS, RIDE THEIR BIKES ON THE TRAILS JUST TO SEE THIS.

ALREADY OVER 1 MILLION CARS DRIVE DOWN DARBY CREEK DR PER YEAR TO VISIT THIS GREAT PART

OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, LET'S WORK

TOGETHER AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE IMPORTANCE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY, I CAN SEE THE

NATURE CENTER WHERE WE STAND TODAY HAVING A SECTION DEDICATED TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

EDUCATION MUCH LIKE THE SOLAR LEARNING CENTER AT THE GLACIER RIDGE METRO PARKS IN PLAIN CITY OHIO WHICH IS SO VERY GOOD. LETS WORK TOGETHER AND SHOW THE REST OF THE STATE AND COUNTRY WHAT TRUE PIONEERS CAN DO WHEN WE DO THE RIGHT THING. APPROVE THIS PROJECT AND HELP THE COMMUNITIES OF PLEASANT AND PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP THRIVE. YOU KNOW YOU ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING BY APPROVING THIS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TODAY.

My name is Squire Galbreath and I'm a resident of Franklin County and I support the Pleasant Prairie solar project.

Thank you for allowing me to present my thoughts and observations on this project. Obviously, there are many positives and negatives to any major project, but I believe the number and scope of positives far out-weigh any negative ramifications. This is truly a win-win for the community, city and state.

Economically there is very little doubt that the Pleasant-Prairie solar project is a huge winner.

I'm not sure of the exact figures, but it will bring in significantly more tax revenue than currently. With the majority of the land now in CAUV, this project will yield what, maybe 5 to 10 times what the schools and local government agencies are receiving! So, for instance the school system which we all know desperately needs and wants more money will receive exponentially more than they currently are receiving. In total over \$30 m. to the schools, \$700,000 in township revenue and almost \$9m. in total county revenue.

For the west side, it'll create much needed construction and long-term jobs. That will obviously then lead to increased earnings on a local and statewide level, employment taxes and overall economic output to the tune of \$140 m. statewide during construction and over \$5m in new long-term output.

By the way, this project adds very little to the demand for local services provided by the government. I think anybody in this room or any place for that matter, would be hard pressed to think of any development, plan or use that is even close to creating more tax revenue/acre while demanding less services provided by the local authorities in terms of police, fire, etc.

Environmentally, the benefits are practically endless. First off, compare this to a housing development, warehouses or ANY commercial development. I say commercial because anyone who owns a large tract of land obviously has a right to do whatever they want to with their property given the appropriate zoning. For that matter, obviously, a person can do ANYTHING with ANY size property.

As you know, the Franklin County commissioners designated this County as an alternative energy zone, so obviously they and the citizens are committed to solar and see the real needs of solar usage. Looking at Franklin County, I'm not sure where one could aggregate a large enough parcel to make it economically viable to have a large-scale solar project.

Solar energy is a very safe form of renewable energy. When compared to traditional energy generation, solar energy is obviously carbon free, improves air quality and improves the health impacts of emission-less generation. ~~Obviously, it won't cause cancer, kill wildlife, but I'm sure you already know that.~~

As far as water quality being added to Darby Creek, crop and sod farming adds tremendous amounts of fertilizers and chemicals to the water. There is none to very little of that with solar. Erosion will be less here as the ground won't be bare 4-6 months as in crop and sod farming.

There will be minimal noise, the drainage will be better, no hazardous waste, an insignificant amount of traffic, and again when compared to a housing development, zero ~~traffic~~.

We live in a democratic society and everyone is allowed to voice their opinion. Everybody has a right to express their feelings and obviously should. On the other hand, there are property rights and zoning rights in a democratic society. In America, we don't believe in a dictatorship, rather the majority decides and in the case of the Pleasant Prairie, I think it's pretty clear ~~as to~~ what the majority of people believe is best economically, for the environment and for the community as a whole.

this project
in Prairie +
Pleasant township and
Franklin County

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Summary: Comments July 19th 2021

Public hearing sign-in documents and written testimony. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Gibson, Karen Sue Mrs.