

TO OPSB:

I have read through all the letters submitted to OPSB, listened to the arguments and one thing is now becoming increasingly clear. Almost all support of the industrial solar projects plaguing our county are coming from those who have already signed leases with Innergex and/or surrounding energy developers or in same way stand to benefit financially from the project. The rest of us representing the overwhelming majority of the community who have no vested financial interest in the panels have no desire to see industrial solar coming to our community. I also keep reading submissions from folks who live out of town and sometimes even out of state. What facts do you know on the actual projects that are coming locally to our area? One of the letters even read that they believe the only eagle nest in Highland county is one on Rocky Fork Lake. If they lived in the project areas then they would know that not to be true. Many of those enrolled do not live on the land or have absolutely any connection to their land. What happens on it will not impact them besides financial gain. These are not quaint little panels that will be placed on top of rooftops so folks can live sustainably. This isn't a project that will even provide local electricity at all. Very few if any full time jobs will be provided long term to locals. This is industrial solar, aka, death of an ecosystem aka division of a community.

I want to state that I am 100% in favor of hearing both sides of any argument or situation. This is democracy and is healthy for a debate. I know personally some of the folks who have signed their farms with the solar companies. Some of them are very good people who I believe have been horribly misled. Others are obviously doing it for one reason only and that is for the money. A comment was made at one of the recent meetings that really rang a bell. If some of these farmers or landowners were offered the same amount of money by another farmer to lease their property and keep it in agricultural production then they would throw solar out the window as quickly as they signed onto it, and its true! This is absolutely their right to try to do what they feel to be best for their families and in a way who can blame them? It's just very unfortunate that it comes at the great cost to the rest of our families and that seems to matter so little to them. I also have read multiple times now that some have chosen to enroll land so it will stay the family farm. Why does it just happen to be when solar comes knocking at the door that they suddenly are in jeopardy of losing the family farm? I'm in no way insinuating that what they are saying isn't true, but it does seem rather ironic. The same can be said with some who are now suddenly concerned with the environment who never seemed to be before. The really ironic part of this particular argument, industrial solar is about the worst possible choice you could make for the environment! Again, some have been horribly misled.

To all landowners under lease with the solar companies I want to say I do respect your property rights and I do believe you should be allowed to do with it what you want within law and regulation. **What we are currently experiencing is a situation where big solar has attacked in time before law and regulation has had a chance to apply. Widespread industrial solar in Ohio is extremely new and the companies have used this to take advantage of ALL of us.... including you, me and our even own government.** Rest assured regardless what happens with your particular project, regulation of industrial solar will look much different in the very near future. **One final comment on this, the rest of us have property rights too, and they do not begin where yours end!**

SB52 was recently passed in Ohio. This was an extremely controversial bill and had a huge amount of paid lobbyist from mega corporations and organizations working night and day to stop it. Yet somehow it still managed to pass, and now is signed into law. Why do you think this is? The answer is a simple and beautiful one. The representatives of the people of Ohio had the voices of US as every day citizens in their ear night and day as well. Not the voices of paid lobbyist but the voices of the common person, homeowner and landowner from every corner of Ohio. Our voices were so loud and so much represented the overwhelming majority of the public and their constituents that our representatives had no choice but to listen to US as citizens and taxpayers, sometimes even when they didn't really want to. This was such a grassroots effort, and it was successful against all odds. Unfortunately many of the solar developers knew this coming for sometime now. They knew the low hanging fruit of the landowners and taking advantage of little communities all across Ohio would soon be put into jeopardy by the passing of this bill. It was for this reason that they acted when they did and acted so swiftly. Now, the majority of projects currently on the docket in Highland and Clinton counties are grandfathered in before SB52, just in the nick of time for the solar developers, county officials and whoever else helped to keep these projects in smoke and mirrors until the absolute last possible minute. This is not a coincidence. With the passing of SB52 a clear and obvious message was sent. We the people believe that industrial solar and "green" energies should be controlled at a local level, and we demand a vote on what will happen at the landscape level within our communities. This is the wish of the people and this is democracy. Will OPSB be on the side of democracy and of Ohio citizens or will it choose to rule in favor of out of country solar energy companies?

For this reason, I am writing to you, members of the OPSB. We need you now more than ever. When I say we I don't mean the tiny fraction of landowners who will be making generational wealth from these projects, I don't mean the solar developers from out of state and country who will not be living amongst the solar desert.... I mean the overwhelming majority of the rest of us who stand to lose many of the things that have taken a lifetime or even multiple lifetimes for us to build. Our friends who have enrolled their farms in solar and the solar developers alike both speak in terms like the application being approved is already a done deal and like what the 99% of the rest of us think will not matter. We all know that isn't true though as most of the projects in the Highland and Clinton county area have yet to be approved by the OPSB. In fact recently the OPSB overturned an application of a large scale wind development project in northern Ohio. It was cited that the main reason for overturning this application was the huge amount of public opposition by the local residents. Please hear our voices as loud as you heard theirs. **More time needs to be taken to study the impacts of these projects.** These studies need to be conducted by a neutral third party and not by businesses like Cardo and others who have openly already been bought and paid for by the solar developers. **Please, by whatever legal means you are entitled to do so as voting members, place an immediate hold on approving anymore solar applications in Highland and Clinton counties until more information becomes available.** The solar developers have snuck in like a thief in the night and we have woke up the next day with many of our lives potentially changed forever. We are real people. I have a mother, wife and a 2 year old son. My father passed away a year ago at the age of 60 after working his life away to build a home and a piece of land. He would have been absolutely appalled to see what is going on in the little community he has lived his entire life, as would many of the other elders of our community who are no longer with us. We own 40 acres in the Palomino project area and devoted it entirely to wildlife habitat and conservation

(actual conservation, not solar). **Most if not all of the folks leasing to solar will not be around for the next 30 years. My son will still be here, as will his entire generation.** Please do what is right, don't make this the new normal...be our watchdog and hear our voices.

Regards,

Seth Rankin

PS. I am writing particularly about the Palomino project, but please submit this letter for all Highland and Clinton county projects. The same sentiment can be echoed for them all.

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