

Submission 1: <https://opsb.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/opsb/help-center/file-a-comment>

21-0041-EL-BGN Palomino Solar Project

Hello, my name is Jim Hill, and I would like you to consider my point of view concerning the Palomino Solar Project in my area.

My father passed away in 1975. We were living on my father's family's farm in the Rainsboro, Rocky fork area. When this happened, my mother was left with raising 3 children one in high school and two in elementary. She had to move and felt it was important for us kids to stay in the same school. Mind you as a woman she could not have a credit card in her name alone in 1975. She received an insurance policy that was enough to put a down payment on this small 3-bedroom house on two and a half acres. With help from my uncle and grandfather we put up some fence and had an enjoyable childhood in 4-H showing horses at the county fair. Mom looked at progress as something that will always happen; you just need to have the faith of a mustard seed.

We moved in January 1976. We weathered the blizzard of 1977 and again in 1978. We couldn't get to town for over a week. Water froze and we melted snow to water the horses. But we were safe in this small little house. At that time the field across the road was a cow pasture.

I grew up and moved out to join the Navy returning in 2003 when Mom got sick. I bought it in 2006. Mom and I would sit on the front porch almost daily if the weather was good and reminisce about how things have changed. The field across the road went from a cow pasture to a corn/bean field. Progress was good as there were no more cows getting out and roaming our yard, but when they planted corn, we felt closed in. In time this field became part of a much larger field that today stretches all the way down to the curve on Collier Road. We sat on that porch together up until almost the day she passed in 2018 after raising 3 kids, two grandkids and two great grand kids on this little plot of land we call the Triangle Kingdom. It is our legacy to our family, not much but just enough. My son lives here with me now and I plan to pass it to him and his sister.

No more are the days a teenager could make enough money baling hay for the summer to buy a used car. (200.00 dollars on a 1969 Pontiac) I baled hay in the very fields that they propose the project that is with-in the boundaries of Bonner to the west, Barrett to the north Beatty to east and Greenfield /Sabina to the south. Today there are no farmers that hire a gang of teenager to bale hay.

Today the hay is rolled or if baled, all the operations of baling, stacking on a wagon and then put up is done with mechanization. The farms today are done by businesses, corn factories and bean factories. Gone are the days a farmer did it all, cows, pigs, chickens, corn to feed, beans to sell. The area is just big corn fields or bean fields, the variety that was here in my teenage years are gone. Progress has changed things.

Progress always happens, we as stewards to the land need to ensure that it goes in a positive manner. Solar farms are making positive progress. These projects will be a benefit to our schools and the area in general. The area is surrounded by roads that maybe 10 cars use on a regular basis other than Greenfield /Sabina. Most people will never see them. In my travels around the world solar farms have only raised the area in economics and land management. In my opinion they are a beautiful sight to see. Technology is a good thing.

I understand people have concerns; progress can be a scary thing. I wish for the days of my childhood, but they won't come back. I support the Palomino project and in time people will see that they will only enhance growth in our community, drawing companies to the area because they see we can grow with time. Progress is good. Being conservative is good too. but don't let conservative views leave you behind.

I guess I am a progressive, something most around here considers vulgar. I know they are afraid of change. Change, it just happens. Let's make sure we progress in a positive manner.

Thank you



This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

8/10/2021 1:00:02 PM

in

Case No(s). 21-0041-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment of Jim Hill, via website. electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing