

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: public comment 21-0036-EL-BGN
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:23:02 PM
Attachments: [Marion County Solar Testimony - Taylor Christian.pdf](#)
[Marion County Solar Testimony - Sarah Spence.pdf](#)

From: Taylor Christian <tchristian@landandlibertycoalition.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:13 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: Written Testimony for Case No. 21-0036-EL-BGN

To whom it may concern:

My name is Taylor Christian, and I am the Field Director for the Ohio Land and Liberty Coalition. We are a group that supports utility-scale renewable energy developments. We support private property rights, economic development, and good stewardship of the land.

I am contacting you today to submit written testimony from myself, as well as from OHCEF Executive Director Sarah Spence, for the Marion County Solar Project. She can be contacted at: sarah@ohcef.org.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Regards,

Taylor Christian

Field Director
m: (724) 678-7823



OH L&LC is a project of the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum



To the members of the OPSB:

My name is Taylor Christian, and I am the Field Director for the Ohio Land & Liberty Coalition. The Land & Liberty Coalition is a project of the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum (OHCEF). OHCEF focuses primarily on state-level policies, while the Land & Liberty Coalition engages on local energy issues across the State of Ohio.

As an Ohioan, I encourage you to approve the Marion County Solar Project (Case No. 21-0036-EL-BGN). This project has a number of benefits that include: economic support for local schools and governments, increased resilience for farmers, and increased energy independence for our state.

This project will bring over 300 new jobs to Marion County during construction. It will provide more than \$10 million in revenue for the Ridgedale Local School District over the life of the project, and above \$4 million to Marion Township. Then, an additional over \$6 million will be added to the Marion County General Fund. All of this is without requiring any increases in government spending.

Marion County is in a part of Ohio that is quickly earning the title of the "Midwest's Sun Belt." Ohio currently has over 4,500 MW of solar development in the pipeline, at a time when the solar industry employs more people than the coal and nuclear industries combined. If Ohio acts in a way that is friendly to solar development, we could see nearly \$10 billion in economic growth. Ohio can be a leader in energy, benefitting all of its citizens by continuing to embrace the spirit of innovation that saw us first soar in the air and land on the Moon.

The project will also provide significant fixed incomes to landowners who lease their property. As many of those landowners are farmers, this project will help provide a buffer against shifting commodity prices and varying crop yields, allowing them to pass their land down to the next generation of food producers. With the energy that this project produces, Ohio and our farmers will be better positioned to weather future storms, literally and figuratively.

Ohio is currently an energy importer - let's approve this project (and more like it) and become an energy exporter! More made-in-Ohio energy will allow us to be less reliant on energy produced in other states and will keep our money out of foreign hands.

For the reasons outlined above, I support the Marion County Solar Project. If you, the members of the OPSB, support economic development, Ohio agriculture, and energy independence, you will award a permit to this project. I am unable to attend in-person, so please take this letter as my written testimony in support of this project.

Sincerely,

Taylor Christian
Field Director
Ohio Land & Liberty Coalition



To the members of the OPSB:

My name is Sarah Spence, and I am the Executive Director for the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum (OHCEF). OHCEF was founded in 2015 to provide a forum for conservatives to discuss a diverse, all-of-the above energy portfolio – one that includes not only existing sources of traditional energy generation, but one that also seeks to expand the development of clean and renewable energy sources. OHCEF believes that clean energy and energy made clean through technology can strengthen both our economy and our national security while providing unmatched opportunities for innovation and job creation.

As an Ohioan, I encourage you to approve the Marion County Solar Project (Case No. 21-0036-EL-BGN). Ohio is currently an energy importer. Approving the Marion County Solar Project will help increase Ohio's generation capacity and move Ohio toward becoming a net exporter of energy. More made-in-Ohio energy will allow us to be less reliant on energy produced in other states and countries and will improve our economic outlook.

This project will bring over 300 new jobs to Marion County during construction. It will provide more than \$10 million in revenue for the Ridgedale Local School District over the life of the project, and above \$4 million to Marion Township with an additional over \$6 million added to the Marion County General Fund. The project will also provide significant fixed incomes to landowners who lease their property.

It's also important to note how vital renewable energy development is to attracting businesses. Companies across the globe and right here in Ohio are looking to diversify their energy sources to include more clean energy. Peloton's first U.S. manufacturing facility to use renewable energy sources is being built in Troy Township. Cardinal Health's on-site solar array contributed over 1355 MWH of electricity to their facilities last year. 5/3 Bank became the first bank to use 100% renewable energy for its operations through a power purchase agreement. AEP plans to add more than 10,000 megawatts of new renewable resources to its generation portfolio by 2030. More than 103,000 Ohioans are employed by the clean energy industry.

For the reasons outlined above, I support the Marion County Solar Project. I am unable to attend in-person, so please take this letter as my written testimony in support of this project.

Sincerely,

Sarah Spence
Executive Director
Ohio Conservative Energy Forum

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 21-0036-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment of Taylor Christian, Field Director of Ohio Land & Liberty Coalition and Sarah Spence, Executive Director of Ohio Conservative Energy Forum, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing