

FILE

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PUCO

Dear Members of the Siting Board,

Thank you for your time in advance in reading of this letter. We are just one of the families that will be impacted greatly on your decision of the South Branch Solar, Case No. 21-0669-EL-BGN. We have 3 parcels in Hancock County that will be effected, Parcel # 510000130910, Parcel # 510000130960, & Parcel # 5100001002924. Let's begin with the parcel ending in 910, the field that lays behind this parcel, to the east, is on the planning for the solar industry, it's approximately 40 acres. That parcel contains a 24 inch main that drains 400 acres to the east. Any tile not left in operation whether lateral or main can't be harmed. This ditch begins at our parcel at the northeast corner, it drains all these 400 acres. That will not only effect the parcel ending in 910, it will involve parcel ending in 924. The creek flows into that parcel. There is a home setting along this creek that was built in the hillside. This home is owed by Tony Friesch. When we have excessive rains today, it will get on his pavement & get very close to rolling into his garage. In the last 10 years such a flood did happen & it entered his home, needless to say, renovation began. This will be constant for him unfortunately, once tiles are ceased, his home will be involved in frequent flooding. The last parcel ending with 960 is where we reside. The Brenner farm is connecting to our farm, our main tile for this parcel runs through them. Their farm breaks about 10 feet and drops towards our land. We already deal with their run off when we have those flash floods, that's in ground that has been tiled. When laterals are broken it all becomes surface water. This will cause acres for us under water & replanting our crop & loss of top soil. Once the solar industry cuts the laterals & they no longer operate they fill with dirt & that in time plugs the main. This is where all our house water goes. We have already dealt with utilities, our phone company, ruined our septic system years ago. This could be in our future once again. Of course, the phone company did nothing to fixed our ruined septic, we found what caused it, broken tiles all the way down our road. We have already lived this reality & they smile & give you all their promises, but do nothing to fix what was damaged. Let's return to parcel 910, the land laying all along the south side has been planned also for solar industry. This land is owned by Rex Cunningham, he has been a friend for a long time & in talking with him, has been greatly misled by this company. He said, "I really don't care what the decision is, I will be fine." He has also visited another neighbor & expressed concerns on how much this is effecting good people. I feel for Rex, he too has been misled & in his older age, he now drives around with no solar sign to look at every day. He told me personally he feels he can't stop in to visit with us anymore because of the stress he has caused his neighbors. It's so unfortunate. Rex & his wife Minnie were very respected in the community, now they are viewed as greedy & out of touch. This company has stolen the heart of the community.

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We want to be on record on what Rob Kalbouss told us directly. They were desperately after our parcel ending in 960, they threw out a figure of \$150,000 to cross our land & bury cable. He returned to see if we were persuaded & we said no. We know the devastation it will cause to the neighboring homes, count us out. He then said, how about \$160,000. It was nothing but a bribe & very dirty dealing at best. When Dave asked him directly about damaging tile, he said, "we care nothing about any laterals, we will try & protect the main. We hope in you reading this, a main is not good without the laterals." He went on to say, "We have ways of getting it, without your say, we will take the end of your road." That was a threat & knew he was serious, the friendly Rob turned ugly & left. This company has not been on the up & up in any way!

Let's turn to some good news! What are we grateful for? Our township trustees for one. They will not allow them to take the end of our parcel ending in 960. The solar industry will not be granted the right to use Township Road 218 to set poles which again is our land. Also, grateful to the Arcadia Fire Department for their support & not wanting to deal with any future fires that will develop, which leads us back to parcel ending in 910, they are planning a battery station right beside that parcel. Also grateful for the Hancock County Health Department that understands all the septic & basement drainage that will be effected by such an endeavor. They have gotten involved & expressed concerns what a health hazard this will be for all the homes involved. So through all the manipulation that this company has done to really fine people, who we know were totally misled, it also brings this community together. We are one people totally opposed to the solar industry. You may not see signs on every property, right now at present, there isn't one on any of ours, but we are in unison with our neighbors. This is "we the people movement." I am grateful to our neighbors that never seen this coming, but are standing with us land owners. It's truly been inspiring.

Yes, we could go on about pollution, property values dropping by 20%, habitat, Ohio losing ground at a fast rate already, recent news about food shortages on the way, you have heard it all before. We are writing from the heart, none of you on this board would want this wrapping any of your homes, ruining your farm ground & your livelihood. This community made a decision in the 1960s that we would be agricultural, that was one home for 40 acres, we haven't changed our minds & the community has come out in force to save it for our future. The last we checked no more land is being made, shouldn't we preserve what we do have? We have large factory buildings that will support solar on their roofs, cities that have blocks abandoned, wouldn't that be a better choice than farm land for food production?

We appreciate your time in reading this & ask for your support for the hundreds of people that will be impacted by your decisions. This company cares nothing about the lives they are effecting, we sure hope you all do.

The land that they needed for connecting all of these solar industry parcels have all said NO to them. We have done our part in saving our neighbors, will you come along with us? Will we be forced to live with your decisions in Columbus everyday of our lives? We want our farm land preserved! We all have seen Hardin County & their reality. The people of Hardin County are talking & very upset about their reality. These fields are now showing their true face & it's a disaster. We know Allen County is fighting this also, no one wants this except the sellers that were misled, or sold out for greed. Four of the five sellers don't even live in this community, they will never face daily what they have done. It's no wonder the sellers had to sign NDA's, now with SB52, their secrets are over. Is it too late for Ohio? Do we have people who care about the land & homes of families in Washington & Case Township? This has been an eye opening experience that such a process could happen in the dark & an all-out threat to seize what we have worked decades to pay for. If this were put on a ballot & the communities of Washington & Cass could cast their vote, this would be a resounding NO! Do you hear us? We the people have made our decision.

Sincerely,

David Tong
Mary Tong

Dave & Mary Tong