



Matt Huffman
Senate President

Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

To: Ohio Power Siting Board
From: Senator Matt Huffman
Date: October 27, 2021

Re: **20-1605-EL-BGN: Birch Solar 1**

To Whom It May Concern:

As the State Senator for Ohio's 12th Senate District, I would like to express my opposition to the Birch Solar 1 project located in Allen and Auglaize counties.

In Ohio, as in many states, we empower local governments to set zoning and other land-use policies for the areas under their jurisdiction. Township trustees, county commissioners, and other local officials are in the best position to determine the long-term development plans for their communities.

As noted in the Ohio Power Siting Board's recent staff report on Birch Solar 1, the Allen County commissioners, auditor, engineer, and treasurer have all expressed their concerns with the project. Additionally, the trustees representing both townships in which Birch Solar 1 would be constructed have passed formal resolutions in opposition to the project. This demonstrates a broad lack of support for the project from the local officials who are responsible for their communities' growth and development. In light of the recent enactment of Senate Bill 52, which provides a formal process for local officials to weigh in on solar and wind developments in their jurisdiction, it seems appropriate for the Power Siting Board to keep these concerns in mind when reviewing Birch Solar 1's application.

Taking into account both the concerns raised by local officials and the outpouring of opposition from the general public, it is clear that Birch Solar 1 is not supported by many of those who would be most impacted by the project. I would like to add my name to this list, and express my opposition to this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Huffman".

Matt Huffman
Senate President
State Senator, 12th District

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
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Summary: Public Comment of Matt Huffman, Senate President, State Senator, 12th District, via website electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing