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To: [Puco Docketing](#)
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Name: Roger Buzard
Address: 4415 West Breese Rd, Ohio
Case: 20-1605, LightsourceBP

Solar Panels in farm fields near a populated area:
Two separate perspectives

The first perspective is that of a homeowner living in the Shawnee community and a citizen of the state of Ohio. Where is common sense? If someone tells me that putting solar panels in a perfectly good farm field is green, I would be inclined to laugh except for the fact that they are serious. If you study the manufacture and components of these Chinese solar panels and their true environmental impact....No serious environmentalist would be in favor of this....none.

America's farmland is one of its greatest assets. This one project would take 2345 acres out of grain production. I worked in the grain business most of my life. The first grain elevator that I managed had a capacity of 500,000 bushels. If these 2345 acres were planted to corn with a 200 bushel per acre output that would fill that elevator. This is just one project like this and its negative impact. By the way, these fields are pretty much ruined as far as trying to ever grow crops again. Between the pilings, cables, compaction, and leaching of toxinsthis will never be used again for growing food. We are intentionally destroying our countryside!

Let's talk photosynthesis. Grain crops growing in a field consume carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. Solar panels on the other hand affect temperatures and wind around themselves and effect the local environment negatively. I have read several articles stating that the immediate area around solar panels is 5 to 7 degrees warmer than the surrounding areas. They affect the weather just as wind mills do by affecting low level wind currents and temperatures....the microclimate.

I read a study completed by some "green" scientists discussing the benefits of solar panels. They themselves admitted that "land impacts can be minimized by siting them at lower quality locations as brownfields, abandoned mining land, or transportation or transmission corridors." You don't put them in perfectly good farm fields and definitely not next to suburban populated areas!

The Ohio Power Siting Boards' own criteria should negate this project. Projects are to be evaluated on the "basis of need", "minimum adverse environmental impact", "serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity", and lastly "the continued agricultural viability of any land". There is no need for this project since the power isn't even being used locally. The solar facility should have a minimal environmental impact compared to other alternative forms of energy. Nuclear power and natural gas are actually greener, much more reliable, and have a much smaller footprint than solar panels. The future agricultural viability of this land would be doubtful. The Shawnee township trustees are all against this project. The Allen County Sanitary Engineering Department is against this project. If HB52 was passed previous to this project proposal, it would be thrown out. Virtually every state or country that has committed to more "renewable" energy is suffering from the decision. The electricity is more expensive, less reliable, and brownouts/blackouts are a natural part of the "greener" service.

The second perspective is that of a homeowner living next to fields full of solar panels. First, as the homeowner we were completely blindsided by the proposed solar project next to our property. We received a letter in October of 2020 stating that a solar energy project was being proposed in Allen and Auglaize counties. We later discovered, as more details came out, it would be placed adjacent to our property. We were going to be living in the middle of a utility plant!

We have lived at our current residence for over 23 years. We live in a wooded area next to farm fields. We are zoned agricultural. How can this happen???

Immediately we started thinking of how this would affect our family and our property in general. We clearly wanted to stop this project from happening here. So what are our most important concerns as a homeowner adjacent to this project???

Our number one concern would be any health impacts from having the solar panels next to us. We know that

there are toxic chemicals used in the construction of these panels and within these panels and their coatings. Cadmium, lead, and polyvinyl fluoride are just a few examples. There could possibly be leaching of these said chemicals into the ground. This is a major concern since we have well water and our own septic system. A major concern is as well that very few studies have been done to measure the impact of these panels over long periods of time. We are guinea pigs. It should be noted here that this project is adjacent to many houses.....not like other solar projects in Ohio and other states. There are 215 homes within a quarter mile of this project. The next major concern is drainage and possible flooding. Our area is already susceptible to flooding. We have a ditch that runs around the four properties in our woods and once it is full, the flooding will begin. Couple that with the soil compaction in the solar field, it does not bode well for properties close by. We are also obviously concerned about the value of our property going down once these solar panels are in place. Some studies have already been completed analyzing the loss of property values next to solar farms. The early conclusion is that there will definitely be a loss in value and it could be anywhere from 3% to 30% depending on the situation. Lastly, these concerns listed do not include the nightmare of construction of this project. We live on Breese road close to Sellers near the substation. The noise, the dirt, the congestion in traffic, damage to the roads.....it will be a nightmare!! If you examine most of these solar projects closely, the people who would be living nearby them are overwhelmingly against these projects! Our lives have been turned upside down since we learned of this proposal. Certain people who live in this area have literally put in so much time and effort it's like taking on a second job!!! I firmly request that the siting board, judges, and other decision makers involved in reviewing this project "DO THE RIGHT THING "..... and reject this solar project! Just because you CAN do a thing, doesn't mean you should!

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Summary: Public Comment of Roger Buzard, via website, electronically filed by
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