

FILE

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PUCO

From, Carol Ann Steck

I am writing to say I fully support the proposed Geenex / Chipmunk Solar Project in Jackson Township, Pickaway County. I request that this endorsement be filed as a comment on the Ohio Power Siting Board, Case # 21-960-EL-BGN.

As you can see by my last name, I am a stakeholder and my family will be directly affected by your decisions.

My father, Melvin Steck is a well-respected and admired farmer and has been a resident of Pickaway County for 86 years and for 60 years been the owner of the farm proposed to be added into the solar project. Presently my father is 101 years old and been farming all his life starting at the age of 7 walking behind a mule planting a corn crop. So our family is tied to the land but weighing all the factors my father has spearheaded the decision to go forward with Geenex / Chipmunk Solar project.

There will be many positive outcomes from going forward with solar farming; for once farm families will have a consistent income, there will be an increase of job opportunities, there will be an increased tax base to better support the schools, increase of clean energy, decrease use of fossil fuels therefore improving quality of air and water. Lastly, the land will not be destroyed or diminished in any way; the value of the land will remain strong.

School systems will benefit from this solar project by increased tax base thereby being a relief to the tax payor and homeowners who must consider tax levies to keep schools operational. I am sure if asked the schools could produce a long list of services the students need not to mention a long list of repairs and upkeep the buildings

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likely need.

Presently modern-day farming requires herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, fertilizers applied from ground sprayers and airplanes all using fossil fuels throughout the farm year. Solar farming does not need either fossil fuels or chemicals. Modern farming no longer uses animal manure to fertilize the land fertilizers now are petrochemicals. Multiple studies have shown a higher-than-average level of various cancers among farming families and that pesticides are associated with excess cancer risk.

When this solar project is superseded by other concepts in the future the solar arrays can be unbolted and the posts pulled up the land can go back into traditional style farming. The farms will have grown grasses for decades rebuilding tilt and health. The land is not taken out of production like when a farm is cut up into housing tracts; with solar farming it is just a different crop, clean energy

In summary Geenex / Chipmunk Solar will be a positive change agent for Pickaway County through the increased employment, increased money to the schools, decreased fossil fuels, decreased application of herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, soil runoff, no large equipment on highways, no noise and finally consistent income for farm families.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely yours, Carol Ann Steck

*Carol A Steck*  
12.1.2021

CC Nathan Wiles  
Chipmunk Solar Project