

FILE

December 7, 2021

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The Ohio Power Siting Board  
180 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Ohio Power Siting Board,

I am writing concerning project #21-0960-EL-BGN (Chipmunk Solar). Agriculture is the staple business in our area of Pickaway County. Farmland is a precious commodity that needs to be valued, protected and treasured. According to the American Farmland Trust (AFT), three acres of farmland are lost every minute to development. Forty one percent (41%) of the lost acres comes from development in rural areas like ours.

There are already two approved solar projects in Pickaway County and one other that is in the process of asking for approval in addition to this proposed project. This is now becoming a definite threat to agriculture in our area. Solar projects are not "farms." They are industrial utilities that take top soil and cause impaction that will cause long term problems for farm ground that is so very important to our existence, let alone our economy. It will not matter in the future what type of energy we use if we do not have the farmland to produce crops to feed us and the people around the world.

My prayer is this project and others like it will not be approved by the OPSB in order to keep the land for growing crops and supporting other agricultural businesses. An alternate site can be chosen that will not disrupt agricultural productivity.

Please think long and hard about how your decision as a board effects the people in our state, the soil that supports our food system and our economy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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cc: Pickaway County Commissioner Gary Scherer  
Pickaway County Commissioner Harold Henson  
Pickaway County Commissioner Jay Wippel

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