

FILE

Mark Schein

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Williamsport, OH 43164

Ohio Power Siting Board  
c/o Matt Butler, Administrative Officer  
180 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH ~~43215~~ 43215

December 12, 2021

Dear Mr. Butler,

Please file the following letter as a comment on Ohio Power Siting Board Case # 21-960-EL-BGN.

I am writing to you as a participating landowner in the Chipmunk Solar project being developed by Geenex Solar and EDF Renewables. I have been a lifelong resident of this area my entire life. Living and farming various plots of land with my family in Deercreek, Jackson, and Monroe Township. When I was initially approached about using land that has been farmed by my family for over 150 years for a solar facility, I was unsure and reluctant to learn more. However, since that initial invitation to participate dating back to 2019, I have researched the benefits and possible detrimental costs of solar development and have also personally driven to separate existing solar projects to see them for myself.

After careful consideration, I am confident that the Chipmunk Solar Project will be an asset to my family's farmland, as well as our community entire community. First off, contrary to a wide-held belief in the area, I made this decision with the best interests of my neighbors and community in mind.

- **Solar will not harm the local environment or the farmland – in fact, just the opposite.** Posts that support the solar panels are driven into the ground and no concrete is used to anchor them. Farmland is allowed to rest, stay in grass, and is ready to be farmed again after decommissioning. Furthermore, solar farms are a passive use of the land. They are quiet and does not generate any foul-smelling gases or any other emissions or air pollutants into the atmosphere.
- **Most solar panels are not within view.** Since solar panels have a low profile, setbacks and vegetative screening can be used around areas of the solar farm boundary to mitigate viewshed concerns.

Based on the previous two-bullet points, Solar will not hurt property values. In fact, several experienced land appraisers have studied the impact of solar farms using a method called matched pair analysis. This is a textbook method used by appraisers for measuring the effects of proposed developments. Their conclusion is that solar farms do not negatively affect property values.

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Solar farms will also have a positive outcome for the local community at large.

- **Solar will increase revenues for the county and state.** Property taxes paid by solar farms will generate significant revenue for Pickaway County and the local community. In particular, funds generated will help provide additional funding for the local school district where my grandchildren will attend (Westfall). These are funds that will greatly benefit the school district that would not otherwise be available.
- **Solar provides an influx of money that creates and promotes business within the local supply chain.** Businesses in construction, hospitality, food, and beverage, and many others will get several years of increased business thanks to the construction and ongoing operations of solar facilities.
- **Farming can coexist with solar.** This is not a zero-sum game; solar and farming are not mutually exclusive. The land buffering the project could be used for grazing livestock or to grow pollinating plants or trees that are beneficial to the region. This allows communities like ours to get the economic benefits of solar while staying true to our agricultural roots.

Finally, solar farms could benefit the larger global environment by reducing our dependent on fossil fuels, which contribute to global warming and climate change, which also pose threats to agriculture.

I understand and share the desire to protect my home. This solar project is one way I want to contribute to that. For the reasons set forth above, I wholeheartedly believe that this will be a win for all residents of Pickaway County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Schein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Mark Schein**