

12/21/2021

Theresa White
Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board
180 E Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Support for the Wild Grains Solar Project

Dear Ms. White:

We write to express Mitch and Brooke Gearhart's support for the Wild Grains Solar Project being developed by Avangrid Renewables ("Avangrid"). Not only are we excited about the local benefits of Wild Grains for our community, but also Avangrid has demonstrated its commitment to our community through their regular, transparent communications and integration of stakeholder feedback into the project.

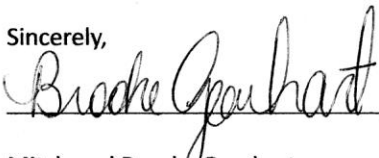
One important benefit to the community of the Wild Grains Solar Project is approximately \$1.2 million in annual payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) revenue, which will be divided between Van Wert County, Lincolnview Local School District, Vantage Local School District, Hoaglin Township, Tri County Mental Health, and Brumback Library. Over the first 20 years of the project, total PILOT payments are estimated to be approximately \$26 million. The community and Avangrid are also exploring other unique community benefits as a result of the Wild Grains Solar Project and we are appreciative of Avangrid's responsiveness and creativity in this endeavor. The community has negotiated a PILOT with Avangrid so that the project can utilize Ohio Air Quality Development Authority's Clean Air Improvement Program tax incentive. We support use of the Clean Air Improvement Program for Wild Grains as it meets our community's desire to attract sustainable development opportunities and OAQDA's goal of improving Ohio's air quality. It's worth noting that renewable energy is one of the cleanest, non-polluting economic development opportunities around.

There are several other community benefits from the Wild Grains Solar Project as well. Wild Grains is estimated to create 400 construction jobs, generating almost \$50 million in employment earnings for workers—who can spend their earnings in our local retail, food, housing, and other establishments. Additionally, project landowners will receive approximately \$1.1 million in annual lease payments.

For these reasons, we request OPSB approval of the Wild Grains Solar Project.

Please let us know if you have questions or would like additional information regarding our support of this project.

Sincerely,



Mitch and Brooke Gearhart
1056 Indian Hill Dr
Van Wert, Ohio 45891



**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
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Summary: Public Comment of Mitch and Brooke Gearhart, via website,
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