

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 20-1605-EL-BGN  
**Date:** Friday, January 14, 2022 8:50:26 AM  
**Attachments:** [scan0030.pdf](#)

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Hello Mr. Butler,

Attached please find my personal letter written in opposition to Birch Solar's proposed solar project in Shawnee Twp., Lima, Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns for this project, as well as those of many of my friends and neighbors.

We encourage OPSB to rule against this project.

Sincerely,

Gina Goodin

Gina Goodin  
3186 Yoakam Road  
Lima, Ohio 45806  
(419) 991-5561  
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Ohio Power Siting Board  
Attn: Mr. Matthew Butler  
180 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Mr. Butler,

My name is Gina Goodin and I have been a life-long resident of Shawnee Twp. I am writing in opposition to Birch Solar's planned solar project in our community. I love where I live. It is a harmonious blend of residential and agricultural – suburban and rural, in a quiet community. Everywhere I look within 10 sq. miles of my home, I see viable farmland. Now one man has decided that his own personal wealth is more important than his farmland. I disagree. As an agricultural community, we all have a responsibility to protect our valuable farmland, which will sustain us for generations to come. The farmland feeds the livestock, which in turn, feed us. It is short-sighted to lease a vast quantity for a project that will only be commissioned for 30 years (the blink of an eye in the grand scheme).

The only ones who profit are the farmer who has leased his land, Lightsource BP/Birch Solar, and a handful of customers far removed from Shawnee Twp. (likely somewhere on the east coast). Perhaps Birch Solar could install smaller panels on the roofs of businesses and homes in communities who struggle to maintain adequate energy supplies.

The negative impact for me and my neighbors is immeasurable:

- No power generated by this project will be sold to us locally. It is questionable whether the power promised will ever be generated, given the number of cloudy days we have here in NW Ohio. Is there **accurate** research estimating the number of Megawatt Hours that will be generated annually? They can promise anything; but will they deliver? (Much like the wind turbines).

- There is no legal precedent for placing a solar operation of this magnitude in such a densely populated area impacting 28,000 residents.
- Environmental, health, and safety concerns, such as topsoil, underground wells, and water pollution/toxins; noise pollution; loss of habitat for many species who live on and around the farmland; and no written plan of correction that would hold Birch Solar accountable for damages in 30 years when the project is decommissioned. There is no plan to remove the solar panels and no written guarantee that 2,345 acres will be free of toxins and viable for farming again. Do we want to be the ones who allow the destruction of 2,345 acres of farmland on our watch?
- Loss of property values as we would now have our roads destroyed by heavy equipment and the eyesore of 7-foot-tall fences installed for miles; again, with no written plan by Birch Solar to repair roads or remove fencing when it is no longer needed in 30 years.
- Not a significant source of job creation when operational (5-7 jobs).
- No guaranteed tax benefits for Shawnee Twp.

In short, this large corporation would be raping our valuable land and then leaving us with the mess and likely irreparable damages in 30 years. Let's be honest with what is really going on here. This is a money and power grab (by Lightsource BP hiding behind their created puppet of Birch Solar), much like our local ethanol plant, where corporations have figured out a way to bilk the system of millions of dollars all in the name of doing something good for our environment, get in and get out, never produce at the rate promised, leave a mess behind, cost taxpayers millions, and dispose of their puppet entity so as to rid themselves of any accountability. All nice and neat for them. However, the risks to my community and friends far outweighs the benefits. For us, it is too heavy a price to pay.

You have the power to say "No" and rule against this short-sighted, costly, destructive, and likely inefficient project. I urge you to do so. Thank you for your consideration and long-term vision and stewardship of our natural resources and our community.

Sincerely,

*Gina Goodin*

Gina Goodin

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities  
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**Case No(s). 20-1605-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment of Gina Goodin, via website, electronically filed by  
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