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February 21, 2022

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

RE: Chipmunk Solar Project  
Public Docket Case #21-960-EL-BGN

2022 MAR -8 PM 4:39  
PUCO

Dear Members of Ohio Power Siting Board,

I am a resident of Monroe Township, Pickaway County, Ohio. I am highly concerned about the Chipmunk Solar Project. Over the last 20 years, the United States has lost over 11,000,000 acres of farmland, much of which is in Ohio. This project is attempting to use another 3,680 acres. It is one of the largest proposed solar installations in Ohio at this time. The loss of so much viable farmland will not only affect food production but will also affect the seed companies, fertilizer companies, grain markets and marketing, truck drivers, implement dealers and especially farmers and farm laborers. I am concerned for the economy of our community and state.

My concern for our economy extends to the homeowners and how this will affect the value of their homes and property. Our property values will decrease.

Furthermore, such misuse of fertile farm soil will cause damage that will take a great effort to correct. It will take years after the installation is decommissioned to regain the fertility that the land now possesses. The underground metal and electrical network, along with the soil being stagnant or dormant for such a long period will most definitely affect the drainage and runoff of waters. I also surmise this will affect the environment for the animals and their habitats.

I further question the commitment and sincerity of a non-local company. Chipmunk Solar does not hail from Ohio and does not know our community or it's people. It is difficult to believe they would ever put the needs of our community above their bottom line. If they believe solar energy is so necessary, they should look into alternative locations for their solar installations that could benefit the environment and also ease the burden for local neighborhoods. There are currently solar companies exploring the placement of panels near decommissioned landfills, airports, warehouse roofs, near interstates where fewer people live, and even on the sides of highway barrier walls. All these would be far more appropriate than replacing viable, fertile farmland with metal and wire. In our search to help nature, we need to be careful not to damage it as we go.

I urge you to oppose this project.

Most sincerely,

Katherine R. Morris

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