

FILE

21-0823-EL-BGW

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

March 17, 2022

Ms. White,

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business. Technician SLR Date Processed 3-24-22

2022 MAR 24 AM 11:03

I am the daughter of Van Wert County landowner Ruth Girod and on behalf of my 91-year-old mother, want to document our feelings regarding the Wild Grains solar panel issue. It is our understanding that there are certain individuals who believe they have the right to dictate how our family farm is utilized. My dad, a lifelong farmer who passed away four years ago, worked hard alongside my mom to develop and care for their property. The family farm, bought and paid for by my parents through sacrifice and an unparalleled work ethic, is now my mom's and it amazes me that, despite the fact that SHE is the landowner, other residents of the county believe they have a right to tell her what she can do with HER property. Is she planning to engage in illegal activity? No, of course not.

To add a few details, we lived next to a hog farm for years. We often couldn't enjoy being outside due to the stench, but not once did we ever think that our neighbor with hogs didn't have the right to earn a living on his property in whatever legal way he determined to be appropriate. Additionally, as people who enjoy the beauty of the countryside horizon, the wind turbines completely changed our view. However, not once did we think the landowners didn't have the right to earn a living on their property in whatever legal way they chose.

We have considered very carefully and deliberately the opportunity to be involved in the Wild Grains solar panel project and my mom, the landowner, determined this was an excellent use of her land for a number of reasons. But let's assume we hadn't gone that direction. Could we have sold plots of land on which to build homes? Could we have turned acreage into a golf course? Might we have turned all of the ground into a cattle farm? It is beyond comprehension to us that there are residents in this county who, for whatever selfish reasons they have, believe they can tell a landowner what they can or cannot do with their own land with the understanding, of course, that it doesn't include illegal activity. What has happened to landowner rights??

I respectfully ask that you consider the ramifications of allowing those who don't own the land to dictate to those who DO own the land what can be "grown" on said land or how it can be used. Where does it end? The thoughts I have expressed are those of my mom who is still of sound mind but, for transparency, I also have power of attorney and will always speak up for my mom's best interests.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Ellen (Girod) Dove and Ruth Girod  
669 S. Washington St.  
Van Wert, OH 45891

Ellen (Girod) Dove  
Ruth Girod