



## OHIO CHAMBER CHAMPIONS

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AT&T  
Bon Secours Mercy Health  
Charter Communications  
Columbia Gas of Ohio  
Encino Energy  
FirstEnergy Corp.  
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JACK Entertainment  
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Nationwide  
Open Road Renewables  
Penn National Gaming, Inc.  
Petland, Inc.  
Plante Moran PLLC  
Procter & Gamble Co.

Quicken Loans, Inc.  
Sedgwick  
Sedgwick MCO of Ohio  
Southwestern Energy  
Squire Patton Boggs LLP  
T. Marzetti  
U.S. Bank  
UnitedHealthcare  
ViaQuest, Inc  
Vistra Energy  
Zaino Hall & Farrin

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Chairwoman Jenifer French  
Ohio Power Siting Board  
180 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: South Branch Solar, OPSB Case No. 21-0669-EL-BGN

Dear Honorable Chairwoman French,

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate, and we represent thousands of companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

As such, we are writing today in support of the South Branch Solar project. This project will bring significant economic development to Ohio and Northwest Ohio specifically, including \$1 million annually to the Hancock County economy and over \$600,000 annually to Arcadia Local Schools. Additionally, South Branch Solar has spent a great deal of time working with the community to better understand their needs and is directly addressing concerns raised by citizens, elected officials, and other key stakeholders.

South Branch Solar, a 130 MW project, will create over 200 electrical, engineering, construction, and installation jobs. Ohioans will make up 80% of the workforce and the project will promote local job opportunities, including a partnership with a local education institution and provide on-going support for a training program.

Renewable energy is one of the fastest growing industries in the country and powers 20 percent of the electricity on the grid. The industry is slated to invest over \$1 trillion in capital investments over the next decade and create one million jobs.

Investing in clean energy in Ohio is also critical to attracting new businesses. Many Ohio businesses across a number of industry sectors, have chosen to implement entirely voluntary

renewable energy procurement goals. More choice in local energy procurement options and access to cost-competitive resources would provide current and future Ohio employers with flexibility to lower overhead energy costs and continue to positively contribute to Ohio's economic diversity and growth.

The South Branch Solar project will not only bring significant investment into rural communities, but its approval will signal that Ohio is open for business. Thank you in advance for considering this letter in support of approval for the South Branch Solar project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Kromer". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Stephanie Kromer  
Director of Energy & Environmental Policy

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities  
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**in**

**Case No(s). 21-0669-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment of Stephanie Kromer Director of Energy &  
Environmental Policy, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf  
of Docketing