

1 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

2  
3 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF

4 BORDER BASIN I, LLC,

5 FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL

6 COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED

7  
8 CASE #21-277-EL-BGN

9 - - -

10 The following PUBLIC HEARING was held before the  
11 Administrative Law Judges, Patricia Schabo and  
12 Michael Williams.

13 - - -

14 Date and Time: Thursday, March 31, 2022

15 6:00 p.m.

16 Place: Findlay Elks Banquet Hall  
17 900 West Melrose Avenue  
Findlay, Ohio 45840

18  
19 Reporter: Susan E. Ingraham, RPR,

20  
21  
22  
23  
24 Midwest Reporting Service

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1 INTERVENORS:

2 Jeff Overmyer

3 Scott and Sarah Lewis

4 Deidra Noel

5 Robin Gardner

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March 31, 2022

6:00 p.m.

JUDGE SCHABO: We're on the record.

The Ohio Siting Board has assigned this public hearing at this time and place. Case number 21-277-EL-EGN, which is captioned in the matter of the application of Border Basin I, LLC, for certificate of environment impact and public need.

My name is Patricia Schabo, this is Michael Williams. We are the Administrative Law Judges with the Board's legal department who have been assigned to conduct this hearing. With us tonight are several members of Board staff and representatives from the Office of Public Affairs.

I'm sure you saw them as you walked in and maybe signed up to testify this evening. They are available if you have any questions concerning the Board's process or if you have any need of assistance for submitting documents in the case or if you have just general questions about the hearing tonight.

If you have specific questions about the project, please direct those to representatives of Border Basin.

1                   At this time, I will go ahead and  
2 start with appearances on behalf of the parties.  
3 We have quite a few intervenors and to make things  
4 a little bit easier, I'm just going to go ahead  
5 and call off names and if you would like to make  
6 an appearance, if you're here and you're an  
7 individual representing yourself pro se, who has  
8 entered in the case, stand up, introduce yourself  
9 and let us know you're here.

10                   I will go ahead and start with  
11 Christine Pirik.

12                   MS. PIRIK: Thank you, Your Honor.

13                   On behalf of the applicant, Border  
14 Basin, the law firm of Dickinson Wright, Christine  
15 Pirik and Matt McDonnell, 180 West Broad Street,  
16 Columbus, Ohio. 43215.

17                   JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you.

18                   And for the Hancock County  
19 Commissioners?

20                   MR. CORE: Good evening. My name is  
21 Tony Core from Squire, Patton, Boggs, representing  
22 the County Commissioners. Address is 41 South  
23 High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

24                   JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

25                   Do we have counsel for Cass Township

1 Board of Trustees?

2 MS. LAND: Lucinda Land, Assistant  
3 Prosecutor for Hancock County, representing Cass  
4 Township. Our address is 514 South Main Street,  
5 Findlay.

6 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

7 For the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.

8 MR. ARNOLD: Thank you, Your Honor.

9 My name is Dale Arnold, Director of  
10 Energy, Utility, and Local Government Policy, 280  
11 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio. Thank you for  
12 your consideration.

13 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you.

14 Mr. Jeff and Ms. Shirley Overmyer,  
15 are you here this evening?

16 MR. OVERMYER: Yes. Jeff Overmyer,  
17 Township Road 238, Findlay, Ohio.

18 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Good evening, Mr.  
19 Overmyer.

20 Do I have a Ms. Noel here?

21 MS. NOEL: Deidra Noel, County Road  
22 109, Arcadia.

23 JUDGE SCHABO: Next up, do we have  
24 the Millers?

25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

1 JUDGE SCHABO: The Gardners?

2 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Here.

3 JUDGE SCHABO: Hold on just a second  
4 while we get a mic back to you.

5 MS. GARDNER: Robin Gardner, 16067  
6 State Route 12, East, Findlay.

7 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you.

8 Do we have the Lewis family here?

9 MR. LEWIS: Yeah. Scott Lewis and  
10 Sarah is on her way. 16870 Township Road 215,  
11 Arcadia.

12 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

13 Just in case you didn't hear me, do  
14 we have the Millers with us this evening?

15 All right. The subject of this  
16 evening's hearing is an application filed with the  
17 Board June 15, 2021, by Border Basin I, LLC, which  
18 you will also hear me refer to as the applicant or  
19 simply Border Basin.

20 With the application, Border Basin  
21 seeks the Board's approval of its plan to  
22 construct, maintain, and operate an up to  
23 120-megawatt solar-powered electric generation  
24 facility here in Cass Township, Hancock County,  
25 Ohio.

1           The project area is approximately  
2   1,378 acres of private land. The facility itself  
3   would occupy approximately 966 acres of that land.

4           The Board staff filed its report and  
5   investigation on March 16, 2022. This report is a  
6   recommendation of the Board's staff and it does  
7   not necessarily reflect what the Board's final  
8   determination in this case will be.

9           The purpose of this evening's public  
10   hearing is to receive testimony regarding Border  
11   Basin's application from organizations and the  
12   local community who are affected by the proposed  
13   project.

14           This public hearing is not a  
15   question-and-answer session but it is an  
16   opportunity to let the Board know what you think  
17   about the proposed solar facility.

18           Tonight's public hearing is only one  
19   aspect of the process. The evidentiary hearing is  
20   scheduled for April 19, 2022, at the Board offices  
21   in Columbus.

22           The purpose of the evidentiary  
23   hearing is for the applicant, and the intervenors,  
24   and the Board staff to provide testimony and other  
25   evidence regarding the proposed facility.



1                   Tonight's hearing is being  
2 transcribed by Court Reporter Susan Ingraham.

3                   As you testify, please speak clearly  
4 and be sure to respond verbally to any questions  
5 asked so that Ms. Ingraham can accurately reflect  
6 your comments on the record.

7                   Any testimony given this evening will  
8 be incorporated into the official record in the  
9 case and it will be reviewed and considered by the  
10 Board in making its final determination on the  
11 application.

12                  If you have prepared a written  
13 statement, you may give a copy of that to us for  
14 reference to ensure that the transcript is  
15 accurate, but that written document itself will  
16 not be filed with the record.

17                  After I have finished with this  
18 introduction, we will begin calling witnesses  
19 forward in the order your names are listed on the  
20 sign-up sheet. Each person will be permitted to  
21 speak once about the proposed facility.

22                  Before you present your testimony, we  
23 will ask you to take an oath or affirmation that  
24 what you are about to say is the truth.

25                  Traditionally, as a courtesy to

1 members of the community for whom tonight is the  
2 only opportunity to present sworn testimony, the  
3 Board has discouraged parties and intervenors from  
4 testifying at the local hearings. This is because  
5 the parties can present that sworn testimony at  
6 the evidentiary hearing.

7               That said, we do not intend to  
8 prohibit intervenors from testifying this evening.  
9 However, I do ask that the intervenors testify  
10 after those who have not intervened so that those  
11 that have not intervened can get their testimony  
12 on the record.

13              I will also remind the intervenors  
14 that you will be subject to cross examination by  
15 myself, by Judge Williams, and by any of the  
16 attorneys here should you decide to testify  
17 tonight.

18              Again, intervenor testimony is not  
19 required. It will not impact the opportunity to  
20 participate in the evidentiary hearing.

21              Should any person decide that he or  
22 she does not want to testify when I call your  
23 name, you may pass to the next witness. If you  
24 decide you prefer to file written comments in the  
25 case docket, the Board staff can provide you with

1 instructions on how to file a public comment to  
2 the case record.

3 We have quite a good reflection of  
4 public comments on the record about, just under  
5 200 documents probably totaling close to 300  
6 comments. We do pay attention to those comments  
7 that are filed.

8 When you have finished your testimony  
9 or if you're just here to observe, you may leave  
10 at any time or you can stay until the conclusion  
11 of the hearing.

12 The Board appreciates participation  
13 in tonight's hearing and we want everyone who  
14 wants to testify to have the opportunity to do so.  
15 For that reason, we will ask that you keep your  
16 comments to a reasonable length and no more than  
17 five minutes. We don't want to be rude. We don't  
18 want to cut off your opinions, but we do want to  
19 accommodate everyone this evening, so we will  
20 enforce this five-minute time limit.

21 If you have not finished your  
22 testimony at the end of the five minutes, we will  
23 ask that you end your comments and move on to the  
24 next speaker. We will give you a 30-second  
25 warning and allow you to wrap that up.

1           Again, I will remind you that we do  
2 pay attention to those public comments so that is  
3 another way for you to have your opinion expressed  
4 to the Board.

5           There are strong feelings in this  
6 room tonight as there are in a lot of these public  
7 hearings. I will ask that you all be considerate,  
8 and kind, and respectful, which means no heckling,  
9 no adding your observations during somebody else's  
10 testimony and just in general being good people to  
11 each other. It's a small community. You all have  
12 to live with each other -- just be kind.

13           At this time we will begin to call  
14 witnesses forward. As we call each witness, we  
15 will swear you in and ask you to state your name  
16 and address, including your township whether you  
17 reside or work within the project area for the  
18 record.

19           As we go along, sometimes everybody  
20 gets into the swing of things really well.  
21 Sometimes I have to interrupt you and ask you to  
22 stop, state your name and get sworn in so everyone  
23 just be patient.

24           We will get this going. There is a  
25 microphone up at the podium and you can try to

1 arrange it or you can take it out of its stand,  
2 whatever makes you more comfortable to give your  
3 testimony.

4 So we will begin with Mr. Bruce  
5 Workman.

6 MR. WORKMAN: Bruce Workman.

7 - - -

8 BRUCE WORKMAN,  
9 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
10 follows:

11 - - -

12 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you. Would you  
13 please state and spell your name for the record.

14 MR. WORKMAN: Bruce Workman, 1407  
15 Fleetwood Avenue, Findlay, Ohio.

16 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you. Do you  
17 reside in Cass Township?

18 MR. WORKMAN: No.

19 JUDGE SCHABO: Okay. And do you work  
20 in or reside in the project area?

21 MR. WORKMAN: No.

22 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you.

23 MR. WORKMAN: First, I would like to  
24 say that I fully support a landowner's right to  
25 use his land in the way he finds most profitable.

1 And I want to clear up one point. There is no  
2 imminent domain involved in this issue, is it? So  
3 no one is forcing anybody to sell their land or  
4 lease their land; is that correct?

5 JUDGE SCHABO: I'm really not here to  
6 answer questions. I don't know the full process.

7 MR. WORKMAN: Okay. I'm going to  
8 assume it is voluntary. The landowners are  
9 selling or leasing their land of their own  
10 volition and they're getting compensated for it.  
11 So it's just the landowners that can use it. But  
12 I see Save Our Land, it's not their land; is that  
13 correct?

14 I would also like to say I do support  
15 alternative energy. And I'm also not someone who  
16 gets my latest and greatest opinions from Sean  
17 Hannity and Tucker Carlson, so I would like to  
18 stick to factual issues.

19 In the fact that it is up to the  
20 landowner to decide if he wants to participate or  
21 not. It's really nobody else's business. There's  
22 no environmental impact from solar panels.

23 So that's really all my statement.  
24 Thank you.

25 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you, Mr.

1 Workman.

2 Does anyone have any questions?

3 (There were no questions.)

4 - - -

5 RICHARD KIRK,

6 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
7 follows:

8 - - -

9 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you. If you  
10 would start with your name, your address, whether  
11 you live and work or reside in the project area.

12 MR. KIRK: My name is Richard Kirk.  
13 I live on Township Road 215, Marion Township. I  
14 work at a family construction company, local  
15 business for 53 years. I have four generations  
16 involved in the business and I have contiguous  
17 property to the solar field.

18 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you. You may  
19 proceed with your testimony.

20 MR. KIRK: I also have Hancock/Wood  
21 as a half-acre solar right next to my farm and  
22 they're also developing 15 acres, so I'm one of  
23 the very few that can say right now I have a solar  
24 field next to me and I fully support it.

25 My kids went to Arcadia school. I

1 have grandkids at Arcadia and I have grandkids at  
2 Van Buren. Going to those two schools for  
3 Christmas plays, we go to Arcadia one week and  
4 we're sitting in an auditorium that is 60,  
5 70 years old. The same chairs that my father  
6 would have sat in. I go to the Van Buren school  
7 the very next week, different grandkids. We're  
8 sitting in a brand new auditorium.

9           The Arcadia school district tax base  
10 is very small. It has very little development in  
11 it. We need that development locally.

12           As the community in Arcadia, we have  
13 not fully supported the school like we should have  
14 over the years. Most of the other districts in  
15 Hancock County far and exceed what we've done.

16           This solar field, I fully support --  
17 my wife and I do -- because of what it'll bring to  
18 our community, what that means to our kids.

19           I think our kids deserve the best we  
20 can offer. We have not done that in the past.  
21 It's time we all stepped up and agreed to do that.

22           Like I said, I was a family business  
23 owner and economic development is a big issue for  
24 us to continue to grow our business, our family,  
25 our employees.



1           As a community you just can't -- if  
2 you stay stagnant, you can't develop, you're not  
3 going to get your kids to stay locally when they  
4 grow up. We don't want to lose that brain power,  
5 we don't want to lose that opportunity so it would  
6 be nice to get this solar project locally to help  
7 our schools, help our kids.

8           Any -- we do a lot of public works  
9 across the State of Ohio and any major development  
10 impacts people. I understand it. I75 when it  
11 came through our community 40 years ago -- I'm old  
12 enough to remember that -- there was a lot of  
13 people absolutely dead set against I75 coming  
14 through our community.

15           There were lawsuits filed about it.  
16 And I dare to say, today, there's no one that  
17 could imagine Findlay and Hancock County being  
18 without I75. That's development. That's  
19 progress.

20           I remember when the reservoir was  
21 built out on the east side of town, 1,000 acres,  
22 took a lot of farm ground. A lot of people  
23 complained about that. Very few people were in  
24 support of it. And, again, today as the  
25 community, no one could imagine our community

1 without that reservoir. The quality of life, the  
2 fresh water that it provides to community members  
3 and new businesses is worth a lot.

4 So I support it, my family supports  
5 it, and I appreciate the opportunity to come and  
6 talk about it.

7 Thank you.

8 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you.

9 Do you have any questions for Mr.  
10 Kirk?

11 (There were no questions.)

12 JUDGE SCHABO: Kip Seisel?

13 - - -

14 KIPTON SIESEL,

15 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
16 follows:

17 - - -

18 JUDGE SCHABO: If you could help us  
19 out, state your name and maybe spell it for the  
20 record.

21 MR. SIESEL: Kip, K-I-P, Siesel,  
22 S-I-E-S-E-L. 241 South Reynolds Road, Toledo,  
23 Ohio.

24 JUDGE SCHABO: Please continue.

25 MR. SIESEL: So on behalf of the

1 Operating Engineers Local Union 18, I am here to  
2 support the approval of the Border Basin Solar  
3 project.

4                   The Operating Engineers are the  
5 individuals who operate heavy equipment such as  
6 bulldozers, excavators, backhoes, forklifts and so  
7 on. The roads and bridges you drive on were most  
8 likely built by members of Local 18, along with  
9 our fellow union trades men and women.

10                   Although we do not have an agreement  
11 signed with Galehead Development to perform the  
12 work associated with this project, we believe our  
13 local signatory contractors will secure the work,  
14 thus providing our membership with numerous  
15 employment opportunities. In turn, high-paying  
16 wages, healthcare benefits and apprenticeship  
17 programs can continue to grow because of the solar  
18 industry.

19                   If approved, the Border Basin project  
20 will not only create jobs, but you can expect an  
21 economic impact, additional tax money, clean  
22 energy for Ohio as a result from the project.

23                   We encourage the Ohio Siting Board to  
24 support the jobs of the men and women of Local 18  
25 by approving the Border Basin Solar project.

1 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

2 Are there any questions?

3 (There were no questions.)

4 - - -

5 SCOTT BODIE,

6 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
7 follows:

8 - - -

9 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you. Would you  
10 please state and spell your name for the record?

11 MR. BODIE: My name is Scott Bodie,  
12 B-O-D-I-E. I live at 969 Washington Township,  
13 Route 262 in Fostoria. I obviously live in  
14 Washington Township.

15 I'm here to support the solar field.  
16 I've seen the ads about the dangers of the solar  
17 field and I believe that solar projects as a whole  
18 are very nonpolluting and they don't generate  
19 noise and they don't generate emissions.

20 It's good for the community, it's  
21 good for the schools. We need more power and we  
22 can't have a not-in-my-backyard opinion or we'll  
23 end up without power.

24 The other thing, to be fair, I  
25 believe the emissions from the solar field will

1 pale in comparison to the use of thousands of tons  
2 of fertilizer and the hundreds of thousands of  
3 gallons of pesticides that the farmers use.

4 I remember when we used to have  
5 pheasants here. I know this is making me popular,  
6 but, anyway, I support the project. I think that  
7 a rational evaluation of it will result in  
8 approval.

9 Thank you.

10 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you. Any  
11 questions?

12 (There were no questions.)

13 JUDGE SCHABO: Pat True.

14 - - -

15 PAT TRUE,

16 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
17 follows:

18 - - -

19 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you.

20 Would you please state and spell your  
21 name for the record?

22 MS. TRUE: Pat True, 17677 Township  
23 Road 218, Arcadia, Ohio. I'm in Cass -- I live in  
24 Cass Township, probably about a mile or so from  
25 some of the project.

1                   I first learned about the solar farm  
2 development last May and began researching the  
3 location and then going to a very informative  
4 meeting held at our community park. This was held  
5 by landowners that were approached to sell and  
6 other concerned community members as well as  
7 representatives from Allen County who had been  
8 fighting their own battle with solar on farmland  
9 for over a year already.

10                   Upon investigating this proposal,  
11 these people learned many disturbing details by  
12 visiting the McGuffey site and thankfully brought  
13 this to our community. Of course, this Border  
14 Basin project had already been in the works for a  
15 couple years unbeknownst to most of our township  
16 citizens and intentionally kept a secret by those  
17 involved, which is already a red flag in my book.

18                   If this is a such a great thing for  
19 our community, why would you keep this so hidden  
20 unless you were afraid of the opposition and  
21 people finding out the real risks and pitfalls of  
22 this operation.

23                   A few of us went to the  
24 Commissioner's meeting soon after and spoke with  
25 them about how to get opposition to these projects

1 in both townships. They advised us to go to the  
2 township trustees and they would support them if  
3 they, in fact, were opposed as well.

4 So we did, and they, both townships,  
5 township trustees, along with the Village of  
6 Arcadia, the Fire Department of Arcadia, serving  
7 both Washington and Cass, and the Health  
8 Department wrote letters to you in opposition and  
9 concerns of the project.

10 So once, again, we went back to the  
11 Commissioners asking for their support and they  
12 decided to investigate more before stating their  
13 stance on this issue. I believe they did their  
14 homework and found valuable information on the  
15 ramifications of these projects being installed,  
16 especially on agriculture farmland, including the  
17 decommissioning and so many other concerns that  
18 will be to their and our detriment in the years to  
19 come. Especially those living around these sites.

20 It is very disturbing how the solar  
21 companies have relentlessly pursued the adjacent  
22 landowners, intervenors, schools, and elected  
23 officials with bribes, promises, harassment and  
24 lies. How would anyone be able to trust such a  
25 company exemplifying the lack of integrity,

1 transparency, and ambiguity that they have  
2 demonstrated.

3               Recently, the staff report was  
4 compiled and reading through this document  
5 confirms the valid concerns of what this project  
6 threatens to impose on our community and the  
7 question of why it is being built in this location  
8 with all the identified risks.

9               Who is and will be accountable for  
10 all the conditions set forth by the staff  
11 recommendations in the staff report and how are  
12 these items going to be addressed moving forward,  
13 especially long-term issues that may arise after  
14 construction is complete, such as broken tile or  
15 contamination of water that may not have been  
16 detected during the project construction.

17               Many of the projects by Galehead have  
18 been sold per the report. Can we count on the  
19 next company to follow and adhere to all the  
20 recommendations as stated today? I would say this  
21 is a high-risk condition of this project.

22               The staff report concludes that the  
23 proposed project would result in many low-risk or  
24 unlikely events. A risk is a risk. And stating  
25 something is unlikely leaves room for doubt. I



1 find it deplorable that any risks at all would be  
2 allowed particularly when it involves the  
3 possibility of contamination of water wells, the  
4 disturbance of oil and gas wells, and stated  
5 impacts of several threatened and endangered  
6 species.

7 A few stand-out items on the report  
8 are there's 119 water wells within one mile of the  
9 project.

10 The applicants assessment concludes  
11 that groundwater may be potentially impacted by  
12 petroleum hydrocarbons.

13 Potential adverse environmental  
14 impacts in the event an oil and gas well is  
15 damaged during construction.

16 Most adverse environmental impact of  
17 an oil and gas well is a release to the surface or  
18 to the underground freshwater aquifers. A release  
19 to the surface poses a risk of fire and/or  
20 explosion and environmental contamination.

21 Lack of a complete historic record.

22 Idle and orphan oil and gas wells  
23 post a degree of environmental risk such as  
24 methane emissions, ground water contamination.

25 There's no records indicating the oil

1 and gas wells listed as historic production wells  
2 have been properly plugged and abandoned.

3 Water contamination potential was  
4 named a primary potential of concern.

5 Also noted and troubling is the  
6 applicant will designate and train a  
7 representative to visually inspect these  
8 identified historic oil and gas well locations  
9 within the project area for signs of potential oil  
10 and gas release. Is this a conflict of interest?

11 Working for a public utility for  
12 38 years and being in the engineering project  
13 management field for 20, has allowed me to work  
14 with many third-party contractors and inspectors.

15 JUDGE SCHABO: Ms. True, just wrap up  
16 your comments.

17 MS. TRUE: I can tell you that no  
18 matter how many studies and risk surveys done in  
19 order to avoid any potential environmental and  
20 safety issues there are always unknown  
21 circumstances, especially underground.

22 I know from my experience that --

23 JUDGE SCHABO: I'm sorry, I gave you  
24 more than your five minutes. I'm just going to  
25 ask you to stop and ask the counsel if they have

1 any questions.

2 Any questions?

3 (There were no questions.)

4 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you, Ms. True.

5 - - -

6 MEGAN GRAU,

7 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
8 follows:

9 - - -

10 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you. If you  
11 could start by stating your name address for the  
12 record?

13 MS. GRAU: Megan Grau, M-E-G-A-N,  
14 G-R-A-U. 1677 County Road 109, Arcadia, and  
15 we're, I call is the northern portion of the Cass  
16 project.

17 JUDGE SCHABO: Okay. So you're in  
18 Cass Township?

19 MS. GRAU: Correct.

20 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you.

21 MS. GRAU: There are a lot of  
22 concerns I have with these projects in our area.  
23 I feel it's most important to share this  
24 information so that everyone is aware.

25 My husband and I and our two young

1 children live in Cass Township and will be  
2 affected by this project for Basin Solar. We will  
3 sit on our patio out back and enjoy watching our  
4 children grow up with these solar panels in our  
5 view.

6 My parents live on our family farm in  
7 Washington Township and will be completely  
8 surrounded by the other proposed project, South  
9 Branch Solar.

10 Our house in Cass Township that will  
11 be directly affected by the Border Basin project  
12 is only two miles from my parents' house. Our  
13 family farm in Washington Township which will be  
14 directly by South Branch Solar.

15 Just recently in the mail they  
16 received this letter from yet a third company  
17 wanting their farm for another solar project.

18 It states "I'm writing to you  
19 regarding your land located in the County of  
20 Hancock. Your property may be a candidate for  
21 solar farm development given its proximity to  
22 utility infrastructure. If you're interested in  
23 leasing a portion of your land, I would love to  
24 speak with you further about the nature of the  
25 opportunity, the timing, and overall economics

1 with a solar land lease.

2 Ohio is poised to become an active  
3 market through new bipartisan legislation which  
4 represents opportunity for landowners in the right  
5 areas with suitable access to utility  
6 infrastructure and agreeable zoning.

7 That said, capacity and utility  
8 infrastructure is limited and allocated on a  
9 first-come-first-serve basis. This means the  
10 sooner we speak, the better so we can act quickly  
11 to reserve capacity on the line."

12 My concern is with these two projects  
13 being so close, it's concerning that if they get  
14 approved and constructed, more companies will  
15 think they have the green light and try flooding  
16 our farmland with more industrial solar and  
17 eventually join these two projects into one big  
18 monstrosity.

19 Please don't let that happen to our  
20 rural area that is so desperately needed to be  
21 kept agricultural for the sake of our health, our  
22 children's health, our property values, wildlife,  
23 and new people wanting to move into our community.

24 Thank you.

25 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you.

1 Are there any questions?

2 (There were no questions.)

3 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you.

4 Jeff Boss.

5 - - -

6 JEFF BOES,

7 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
8 follows:

9 - - -

10 MR. BOES: My name is Jeff Boes. I  
11 live at 17249 State Route 613, Bloomdale, Ohio. I  
12 do live in Cass Township.

13 Many of you against the project have  
14 talked about how it affects younger farmers in  
15 this community. Well, I am a young farmer and I  
16 welcome this project to my family's land in our  
17 community.

18 This project brings money for the  
19 schools, it saves and preserves the ground that my  
20 family farms and cares for. The income from this  
21 project will allow my family to grow and preserve  
22 our farm for decades to come.

23 Please approve the Border Basin Solar  
24 project and respect my family's right to farm.

25 Thank you.

1 JUDGE SCHABO: Any questions?

2 (There are no questions.)

3 JUDGE SCHABO: Tim Mayle?

4 - - -

5 TIM MAYLE,

6 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
7 follows:

8 - - -

9 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you. Would you  
10 please state and spell your name for the record?

11 MR. MAYLE: Tim Mayle, 724 Parkview  
12 Drive, Findlay.

13 JUDGE SCHABO: Is that in Cass  
14 Township?

15 MR. MAYLE: No.

16 JUDGE SCHABO: Go ahead.

17 MR. MAYLE: Good evening, Judge. My  
18 name is Tim Mayle and I am the Director of Findlay  
19 Hancock County Economic Development. Findlay  
20 Hancock County Economic Development is a private,  
21 not-for-profit focused on retention and expansion  
22 of existing businesses, attraction of new  
23 business, downtown, small business, workforce, and  
24 community planning. I'm here today to testify in  
25 support of Basin Solar.

1           Ohio set a policy that by the end of  
2 2026, 8.5 percent of power generated will be from  
3 renewal sources. The Ohio Power Siting Board has  
4 the responsibility to permit utility scale  
5 projects and the Ohio Power Siting Board staff,  
6 after extensive review of Border Basin has  
7 recommended approval if certain conditions are  
8 met. The conditions required are appropriate and  
9 included items as drainage, road maintenance,  
10 aesthetics, and many others. On March 21, I  
11 attended a Cass Township Trustee meeting when  
12 Border Basin reviewed the staff report with the  
13 township trustees and their counsel. Basin Solar  
14 addressed all the concerns that the township  
15 trustees had for the project and it was a  
16 productive meeting.

17           Ohio set a policy of requiring  
18 renewable energy for many reasons. One reason is  
19 to reflect the policy of major energy users in our  
20 state. Locally, Marathon Petroleum, ValGroup,  
21 Ball and Whirlpool have all implemented onsite  
22 wind energy to provide power for their facilities.  
23 In addition, companies have set internal policies  
24 for energy consumption. Whirlpool, net zero  
25 emissions by 2030. Volvo, net zero emission by



1 2040. Honda, carbon neutrality by 2050. Proctor  
2 and Gamble, net zero ambition by 2040. Many  
3 others have all set internal policies. Border  
4 Basin and similar projects will provide  
5 opportunities for our large power users to meet  
6 their energy goals. Border Basin is a tool to  
7 retain our companies.

8 As I mentioned, attraction is one of  
9 the and core areas of economic development.  
10 Companies that are looking to move to the US from  
11 Asia and Europe are increasingly looking for  
12 renewable energy opportunities. Some of the  
13 attraction leads are requiring opportunities for  
14 renewable energy. Permitting of Border Basin will  
15 directly support the attraction efforts of Job  
16 Ohio, Regional Growth Partnership, and my office.

17 Intel recently announced a  
18 \$20-billion investment in central Ohio and stated  
19 they plan to power 100 percent of its operations  
20 with renewable power.

21 Border Basin Solar will be required  
22 to pay a payment in lieu of taxes, PILOT, after  
23 the Hancock County Commissioners voted three to  
24 one for Border Basin. The commissioners'  
25 unanimous vote secures \$1,080,000 annually to be

1 distributed locally. It is estimated the project  
2 will generate an annual PILOT to County general  
3 fund of \$452,000, Van Buren School district  
4 \$146,0000, and Arcadia School District, \$417,000.

5 The commissioners' vote provides a  
6 steady revenue stream and protects the local  
7 school districts. A PILOT is not considered part  
8 of the state school funding formula, insuring the  
9 money will be incremental. The PILOT resolution  
10 from the commissioners also requires that Border  
11 Basin hire local workers for construction of the  
12 project.

13 Future utility scale projects will be  
14 permitted under Senate Bill 52. To be clear,  
15 Border Basin has been grandfathered to the rules  
16 in place prior to Senate Bill 52. Border Basin is  
17 not subject to any exclusion zones that may be  
18 imposed in the future.

19 Thank you, Basin Solar, for investing  
20 in Hancock County. Your project provides  
21 much-needed revenue for our local governments,  
22 energy opportunities for existing manufacturing,  
23 energy opportunities for attraction leads, will  
24 assist in meeting the state's energy goals, all  
25 while developing responsibly within the Ohio Power

1 Siting Board requirements and conditions.

2 Thank you.

3 JUDGE SCHABO: Any questions?

4 (There were no questions.)

5 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you.

6 Pam Bibler.

7 - - -

8 PAM BIBLER,

9 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
10 follows:

11 - - -

12 JUDGE SCHABO: Your name for the  
13 record?

14 MS. BIBLER: Pam Bibler, 19116  
15 Township Road 218, Fostoria. I'm in Washington  
16 Township neighboring Cass, about maybe a mile and  
17 a half from the project. I'm going to read fast  
18 because it's six minutes by practice.

19 JUDGE SCHABO: If we don't go at a  
20 reasonable pace the court reporter can't get it  
21 down.

22 MS. BIBLER: All right. I'll do my  
23 best.

24 JUDGE SCHABO: All right.

25 MS. BIBLER: I also want to say just

1 really quickly that I've owned property in Findlay  
2 city for 40 years and you know how much say I get  
3 there? Zero, because I don't live there. I can  
4 own property, I have no say so I'm impressed by  
5 all the people here that have an opinion that  
6 don't live where we're talking about, but, anyway.

7           My dad passed away last May or June  
8 and he grew up in the depression. And he always  
9 told us growing up, so long as you take care of  
10 your land, you can eat. They don't make any more  
11 land. So it is our land. I don't care who owns  
12 it temporarily, we have to be good stewards of it.

13           So I want to talk about a couple of  
14 the criteria you're supposed to use when you  
15 consider this project. The nature of the probable  
16 environmental impact -- where to begin. How is it  
17 not an environmental negative impact.

18           As mentioned by this Siting Board in  
19 the summary of evidence for Seneca County's wind  
20 denial, it is an adverse effect on the rural  
21 nature of the area and quality of life, including  
22 views. That applies to our county as well. That  
23 was directly from the Siting Board.

24           It also impacts the wildlife. We  
25 have eagles. I've called Wildlife, they won't

1 call me back. I've emailed them. I've got  
2 pictures, we have an eagle family, you know, a  
3 quarter of a mile from my house. I have an eagle  
4 in my tree. That is not being addressed. The  
5 reports they're turning in are, like, 40 years  
6 old.

7 I want to know if ruining farmland  
8 forever and our food source count as an  
9 environmental impact, ruining a non-renewable  
10 resource that is limited for an unknown and  
11 inefficient renewable resource that could be  
12 placed anywhere else.

13 This isn't against solar. This is  
14 about ruining farmland that you cannot replace.  
15 According to Rebecca Williams from Clinton County,  
16 who has a bachelor's degree in plant soil and  
17 environmental sciences, these solar projects are  
18 disrupting ecosystems. Only 15 percent of the  
19 energy hitting the panels is converted to  
20 electricity. The rest is returned to the  
21 environment as heat so it is not efficient enough  
22 to warrant large-scale destruction of farmland.

23 And I agree with her that once the  
24 soil structure destroyed, only thousands of years  
25 can replace it, not a decommissioning agreement.

1 This land will never be turned. In fact, you  
2 can't show us one solar industry on farmland where  
3 it's been returned to farmland. There is none.

4 Karen Faust from Clinton County in  
5 her testimony, shared that there are no examples  
6 of reclaimed land.

7 Soil is unique to our solar system,  
8 nothing can live without it. Why would you agree  
9 to destroy this resource?

10 Then number three that you have to  
11 consider says that you need to -- the facility  
12 represents the minimum adverse environmental  
13 impact considering the state of available  
14 technology. Solar footprint's the largest  
15 footprint of any type of energy being utilized.  
16 It's not a minimum adverse effect.

17 In a study done by the University of  
18 Rhode Island, solar installation require over ten  
19 times more land than other energy sources. And in  
20 an article by Brian Gitt, he goes on to say that  
21 according to the US Department of Energy a typical  
22 1,000-megawatt nuclear facility needs one square  
23 mile. Solar farms need 75 times more land to  
24 produce the same amount of electricity. Does that  
25 make sense? Is that a good use of farm ground we

1 need for food.

2 We won't even get into battery  
3 backups that they need like the outage they had in  
4 Texas, what, a year ago, for days and people died  
5 because they were dependent on solar.

6 And then also the facility will serve  
7 the public interest, convenience, and necessity.  
8 I'd like you to listen to this paragraph by the  
9 Siting Board. They used the term local four times  
10 in the Seneca County's summary of evidence.

11 At the same time this criterion  
12 regarding public interest, convenience, necessity,  
13 must also encompass local public interest, local  
14 citizen input, while taking into account local  
15 government opinion and you must balance the  
16 projected benefits against the magnitude of  
17 potential negative impacts on the local community.

18 Not Findlay city, not the union  
19 workers, the local community. We're talking about  
20 wells we're talking about the fires like the one  
21 they had in Celina. We're talking about tornados.

22 So I would like you to consider our  
23 local government that's against it, our trustees,  
24 the Village, two of our commissioners want to  
25 uphold exclusion zones. Senate Bill 52 speaks to

1 the local rights of residents.

2 And I would just say in summary, you  
3 have the power to stop this destruction. I think  
4 we are all aware it's about money. So is  
5 prostitution. Doesn't it --

6 JUDGE SCHABO: You need to wrap up  
7 your comments.

8 MS. BIBLER: It's not right to earn  
9 money off the destruction of someone else.

10 JUDGE SCHABO: Any questions for Ms.  
11 Bibler?

12 (There are no questions.)

13 JUDGE SCHABO: Thank you.

14 Rachelle Harmon.

15 - - -

16 RACHELLE HARMON,  
17 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
18 follows:

19 - - -

20 JUDGE SCHABO: If you would like for  
21 us to take these, we need to actually take them  
22 with us.

23 MS. HARMON: Yes, you can take all of  
24 this.

25 Rachelle, R-A-C-H-E-L-L-E,



1 H-A-R-M-O-N. I live at 304 East Brown Road,  
2 Arcadia, which is the village adjacent to the  
3 project.

4 Good evening. Tonight, I'm here to  
5 oppose the Border Basin Solar project.

6 In May of 2021, I learned two solar  
7 projects being proposed in Cass, Border Basin  
8 Solar with Galehead, the parent company in Boston,  
9 Massachusetts, and South Branch Solar, parent  
10 company Leeward Renewable Energy with offices in  
11 Texas, California, and Chicago, Illinois.

12 Growing up on a farm, raising and  
13 showing livestock and being involved in 4H and  
14 FFA, coming from generations of dairy farmers and  
15 crop farmers, marrying a farmer, I knew this was  
16 not good for our agricultural-predominant  
17 community.

18 Several other community members and I  
19 formed a group to oppose these projects. We  
20 learned early on just how destructive these solar  
21 companies and projects are. They come in  
22 secretively and quietly. One Cass Township  
23 trustee told us how he was asked out to have a  
24 meeting, but was told he couldn't have all the  
25 trustees there because of Sunshine Law. Then

1 after the meeting, he was asked not to talk about  
2 it.

3                   Once I learned who the Border Basin  
4 lessee was, I was not surprised. Another one of  
5 his latest and greatest ideas. He had already  
6 sold ground for a distribution center, got turned  
7 down in the community for a mega hog farm, had a  
8 mega cattle operation, so, please, don't make this  
9 his next latest and greatest idea, a solar farm.

10                   However, I can't call this a farm  
11 because it doesn't grow or raise --

12                   JUDGE SCHABO: Ms. Harmon, just take  
13 a deep breath --

14                   MS. HARMON: Sorry.

15                   JUDGE SCHABO: I need you to slow  
16 down so the court reporter can get your comments.

17                   MS. HARMON: Because it doesn't grow  
18 or raise anything but electric cost. How soon  
19 will solar be thrown to the wayside for the next  
20 great energy idea? Five to ten years? The least  
21 for this project is 25 to 30 years.

22                   Westinghouse already has a prototype  
23 for a small compact reactor. This project will  
24 not only destroy our rural ag predominant  
25 community, but the ag industry. These projects

1 take away good productive land growing food, jobs  
2 from the local co-op and many other parts of the  
3 ag industry.

4 Roughly five miles away is one of the  
5 top eighth leading agriculture company, ADM.

6 These projects also take away from  
7 our children. Currently one in four children in  
8 the United States is hungry. If this is such a  
9 good thing for the children of our ag-predominant  
10 community, then why take away their futures. My  
11 six-year-old son -- as you have a picture of -- he  
12 wants to be just like his dad. He wants to  
13 continue to be a fourth-generation farmer for our  
14 farm.

15 However, if all the local land turns  
16 to solar, how can he continue to do that. Already  
17 the applicant names says Border Basin Solar I, so  
18 you can't tell me they already don't have plans to  
19 expand that.

20 What about the FFA students who will  
21 soon graduate and want an ag career. These  
22 projects take away from them, too.

23 I attended Hocking College to study  
24 wildlife management and natural and historical  
25 interpretation. As I was growing, I enjoyed being

1 outdoors with the wildlife so a big concern for me  
2 is protecting our wildlife.

3 After reading the case record  
4 wildlife study -- which I handed you highlighted  
5 copies of -- I found out that Tettra Tech didn't  
6 do a current relevant study. They used Ohio  
7 Department of Natural Resources study from 1980 -  
8 42 years ago -- older than me.

9 A lot changes in 42 years. Also,  
10 they listed wrong information as they listed  
11 Arcadia as the township and it's Cass. I  
12 highlighted that for you.

13 Also in the study, I mentioned the  
14 date. I also shared with you pictures a resident  
15 gave me from Township Road 215, which is in the  
16 project site, of eagles. I gave you a copy of the  
17 Monday, March 28, Courier article about the Bald  
18 Eagle population making a come back in the State  
19 of Ohio. So around that six-month-old study  
20 couldn't have identified eagles and other current  
21 species.

22 Also I'm concerned about the glare  
23 and the fencing in of the wildlife thus causing  
24 more deer and vehicle accident main east and west  
25 roads.

1                   Not being more than a citizen  
2   scientist, I researched the photovoltaic panels  
3   and how they emit more wildlife hurt, aquatic  
4   kills from by-product dumping, harmful forever  
5   chemicals and carcinogens in the panels.

6                   Why do we want to allow these harmful  
7   chemical-filled panels in a large amount and the  
8   beginning of the project is 1,378 acres on good  
9   productive farmland.

10                  Buy dirt and thank the good Lord for  
11   it cause you can't make any more of it. Ohio  
12   ranks sixth in the nation for soybean production  
13   and tenth for corn which helps reduce our carbon  
14   footprint.

15                  After this project life, how can this  
16   land go back to farming. At another solar project  
17   in Pickaway and Ross counties -- and I gave you  
18   pictures of that -- they stripped back the top  
19   soil and then the clay is exposed and compacted,  
20   which after the soil is compacted, it can't drain.  
21   Soil needs to breath. The holes dug for the posts  
22   have cement stuck into them.

23                  Can't go back to farming this because  
24   it will break down the equipment so it won't be  
25   farmable again.

1                   Hancock County Commissioners say on  
2 their website they are for preserving our farmland  
3 and one is even on the Soybean Board as chairman.  
4 So will this project --- number six. How does  
5 this meet the public interest, convenience and  
6 necessity when our local community leadership and  
7 Arcadia, Cass and Washington Township residents  
8 don't want this.

9                   JUDGE SCHABO: Ms. Harmon, I'm sorry,  
10 I need you to wrap up your comments.

11                  MS. HARMON: I am. I'm almost done,  
12 I promise.

13                  JUDGE SCHABO: You've got about ten  
14 seconds.

15                  MS. HARMON: Okay.

16                   I looked at another project  
17 transcript and the gentleman said that this was  
18 already a done deal. He had found out. Please,  
19 as much as you've heard the same things over and  
20 over, don't make Border Basin a done deal. I  
21 handed you another copy from the chamber and in  
22 there, I highlighted areas where they are already  
23 saying pretty much this is likely a done deal.

24                   So let's be the signature county that  
25 Hancock County wants to be and be the first ones

1 to deny a solar project.

2 Thank you for your time and thank you  
3 for listening to me about protecting our  
4 children's futures. And also I'd like to say I'm  
5 the Arcadia FFA alumni president and I'm a  
6 life-long resident of Hancock County.

7 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Before you step away  
8 I just want to clarify the exhibits you presented.  
9 So I have the three photographs. One, I believe  
10 is of your son, two appear to depict an eagle in a  
11 tree.

12 MS. HARMON: Yes.

13 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Are those photos you  
14 took?

15 MS. HARMON: I was given them from a  
16 resident in Cass Township.

17 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Who provided you the  
18 photos?

19 MS. HARMON: Her name was Lindsey  
20 Kelplee.

21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And where did  
22 she get those photos?

23 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Unless you're a  
24 party to the case, you're not allowed to ask the  
25 witness a question, but I'm headed that direction.

1 Ms. Kelplee took the photos?

2 MS. HARMON: Yes.

3 JUDGE WILLIAMS: And do you know when  
4 she took the photos?

5 MS. HARMON: I don't. I don't know  
6 all that. She sent them to me.

7 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Do you know what  
8 area they depict?

9 MS. HARMON: They were right behind,  
10 I believe the property where her mother lives on  
11 215, which is right in the project site.

12 JUDGE WILLIAMS: So it's Lesley  
13 Kelplee.

14 MS. HARMON: Lindsey.

15 JUDGE WILLIAMS: -- mother's  
16 property?

17 MS. HARMON: Yes.

18 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Do you know when  
19 they were taken?

20 MS. HARMON: I do not. Sometime in  
21 the last -- I think I got them in January, maybe.

22 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Okay.

23 MS. HARMON: I can look on Facebook  
24 if you need me to.

25 JUDGE WILLIAMS: And I guess, as



1 we've described already, there's a public comments  
2 section in the docket if you want to supplement --

3 MS. HARMON: I already did, actually.

4 JUDGE WILLIAMS: If you want to  
5 supplement your testimony regarding these  
6 explanations, you're welcome to.

7 MS. HARMON: Okay.

8 JUDGE WILLIAMS: You also referenced  
9 this, and this is two photographs that have been  
10 copied onto an 8 1/2 by 11 --

11 MS. HARMON: No, I just printed them  
12 off. My ink is running out, so that's why it  
13 looks funky like that, so I apologize.

14 JUDGE WILLIAMS: What does this  
15 depict?

16 MS. HARMON: So that is Pickaway  
17 County and Ross County. I'm drawing a blank at  
18 the name of the project down there. It's a  
19 current one. They were just there and they took  
20 those pictures and it's showing how they stripped  
21 the top soil off and it's left with the clay and  
22 how when you compact the soil, it doesn't breathe,  
23 like I said, and you get nothing but water stuck  
24 on top.

25 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Do you have an

1 address or a location where this is?

2 MS. HARMON: I can look it up on your  
3 Ohio Power Siting website.

4 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Again, I would  
5 encourage you, if you want to file supplements to  
6 take advantage of the supplemental comments  
7 section on the Board's website.

8 You also presented page one twice of  
9 a letter to Will Campbell from the Ohio Department  
10 of Natural Resources. Do you have page two of the  
11 letter?

12 MS. HARMON: It's actually on the  
13 case record. I can't tell you where at. It's  
14 maybe page three or four on the case record if you  
15 scroll over. I think there's six pages for this  
16 project.

17 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Okay.

18 Lastly, you presented a newspaper  
19 article.

20 MS. HARMON: Yes.

21 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Could you tell me,  
22 again, what the publication is?

23 MS. HARMON: So it was from the  
24 *Monday Courier*, which is the Hancock County local  
25 newspaper, about the come back of the eagles in

1 Ohio.

2 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Do you have a date  
3 of this edition?

4 MS. HARMON: Monday, March 28, this  
5 past Monday.

6 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Those are all the  
7 questions I have.

8 Any other questions from the parties?

9 MS. PIRIK: Your Honor, I don't have  
10 a question, but I just would like to know for the  
11 record that picture of the eagle, there's no  
12 substantiation, or basis, or foundation for it or  
13 really verification of where it was taken. We  
14 have no way of doing that, so I just want that  
15 noted in the record, but I don't have any  
16 questions.

17 JUDGE WILLIAMS: We're not receiving  
18 that as evidence here tonight. I appreciate that,  
19 Ms. Pirik.

20 MS. PIRIK: Thank you.

21 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Any other questions?  
22 (There are no questions.)

23 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you for your  
24 testimony.

25 Next, we have Albert Kelbley.

1

- - -

2

ALBERT KELBLEY,

3

Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
follows:

5

- - -

6

JUDGE WILLIAMS: Could you please  
state and spell your name for the record?

8

MR. KELBLEY: Albert Kelbley, State  
Route 613, Fostoria, Ohio.

10

JUDGE WILLIAMS: You're last name is  
spelled?

12

MR. KELBLEY: K-E-L-B-L-E-Y.

13

JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir. And  
do you live or work in the project area?

15

MR. KELBLEY: I own the farm right  
next to some of it.

17

JUDGE WILLIAMS: Okay. Please  
proceed.

19

MR. KELBLEY: Huh?

20

JUDGE WILLIAMS: Please proceed with  
your testimony.

22

MR. KELBLEY: There's been a lot of  
proposing where it's going to be and all that, but  
there's been no pictures of what it's going to  
look like when we're done. I haven't been talked

25

1 to as far as is the fence going to be right on the  
2 land, is it going to set back. And who's going to  
3 maintain the property after it's done as far as  
4 mowing the grass or what, and weeds or whatever it  
5 needs to be is my concern.

6 I'll be the farthest one to the north  
7 and there's no houses, and I haven't been  
8 approached as what it's going to look like and  
9 that's what I'm concerned about.

10 Is it going to grow up -- I  
11 understand there's a solar field down in McGuffey  
12 and it's growing up in weeds. Who's going to take  
13 care of this? We need to figure this out before  
14 we get started, so that's my concerns.

15 I want to know what it's going to  
16 look like when it's finished. And when I have  
17 something on paper that says who takes care of the  
18 property after it's generating is my concern.

19 I have no problem with it, but I want  
20 to know what it's going to look like when we're  
21 finished. I don't want to see a map of what we're  
22 going to do. I want to see a finished product.  
23 The appearance of it is the biggest concern.  
24 That's my biggest concern and that's all I have to  
25 say tonight.

1 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you for your  
2 testimony. I will let you know the applicant is  
3 here and they're happy to talk with you after the  
4 hearing. They're happy to talk with you  
5 telephonically as well.

6 MR. KELBLEY: I asked these same  
7 questions when they had a meeting in Arcadia last  
8 summer and everybody passed the buck.

9 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Again, I'm just  
10 letting you know the applicant is here and they  
11 are here to interface --

12 MR. KELBLEY: I think that's the  
13 biggest problem is what it's going to look like  
14 when we're done. We know what a windmill looks  
15 like. And I have just been to Illinois on 70, you  
16 see solar farms and they're well maintained. We  
17 got one down at Upper, but we don't want one like  
18 one down at McGuffey. That's my concern.

19 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir.  
20 Next we have Linda Bishop.

21 - - -

22 LINDA BISHOP,  
23 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
24 follows:

25 - - -

1 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you. Would  
2 you please state and spell your name for the  
3 record?

4 MS. BISHOP: My name is Linda Bishop.  
5 I live at 6013 Township Road 246, Findlay, Ohio.

6 I'm actually in Marion Township, but  
7 our yard butts up to Cass Township and we also own  
8 land in Washington Township.

9 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Please proceed with  
10 your testimony.

11 MS. BISHOP: Can enough energy be  
12 supplied by building wind and solar farms as well  
13 as batteries to store the energy.

14 If we want to be good stewards of the  
15 planter, the answer is no.

16 Here are some realities that aren't  
17 being discussed. All sources of energy have  
18 limits that can't be exceeded. The maximum rate  
19 at which the sun's photons can be converted to  
20 electrons is about 33 percent. Our best solar  
21 technology is at 26 percent efficiency. For wind,  
22 the maximum capture is 60 percent. Our best  
23 machines are at 54 percent.

24 Aren't we pretty close to wind and  
25 solar limits. Despite claims about big gains

1 coming, this just isn't possible. Wind and solar  
2 only work when the wind blows and the sun shines.  
3 Don't we need energy all the time.

4           The solution we're told is to use  
5 batteries. The world's biggest battery factory,  
6 the one Tesla built in Nevada, would take 500  
7 years for that factory to make enough batteries to  
8 store just one day's worth of American's  
9 electronic needs.

10           This explains why wind and solar  
11 supply less than three percent of the world's  
12 energy even after 20 years and billions of dollars  
13 in subsidies. If your motive is to protect the  
14 environment, you might want to rethink wind, solar  
15 and batteries because like all machines, they're  
16 built from nonrenewal materials.

17           A single electric car battery weighs  
18 about a half a ton. Fabricating one requires  
19 digging up, moving, and processing more than 250  
20 tons of earth somewhere on the plant.

21           Building a single 100-megawatt wind  
22 farm which can power 75,000 homes, requires from  
23 30 tons of iron ore and 50,000 tons of concrete,  
24 as well as 900 tons of nonrecyclable plastics.

25           To get the same power from solar, the



1 amount of cement, steel, and glass needed is 150  
2 percent greater.

3                   Then there are rare earth metals  
4 needed in the processing. With current plans, the  
5 world will need an incredible 200 to 2,000 percent  
6 increase in mining for elements such as cobalt,  
7 lithium. These are just to name a few.

8                   Where's all this stuff going to come  
9 from. Massive new mining operations? Almost none  
10 of it in America because we can't mine in American  
11 anymore. Some imported from places hostile to us  
12 and some in places we all want to protect.

13                   Australia's Institute for a  
14 Sustainable Future cautions that global gold rush  
15 for energy materials will take miners into remote  
16 wilderness areas that have maintained high  
17 biodiversity because they haven't yet been  
18 disturbed.

19                   Who is doing the mining? Are they  
20 all going to be union workers with union  
21 protections. Won't the mining itself require  
22 massive amounts of conventional energy as do the  
23 energy-intensive industrial processes needed to  
24 refine the material and then build the wind,  
25 solar, and battery hardware.

1                   Wind turbines, solar panels, and  
2 batteries have a relatively short life, about  
3 20 years. Conventional energy machines like gas  
4 turbines last twice as long.

5                   With current plans, the International  
6 Renewable Energy Agency calculates that by 2050,  
7 the disposal of worn-out solar panels will  
8 constitute over double the tonnage of all of  
9 today's global waste. Worn-out wind turbines and  
10 batteries will add millions of tons more.

11                   Is it wise to dig up millions of  
12 acres of pristine areas for mining operations,  
13 create epic waste problems and destroy 83,000  
14 acres of Ohio farmland through reckless,  
15 irresponsible use.

16                   What about the long-term agriculture  
17 jobs lost compared to the short-term jobs created  
18 to build the solar farms that few people want  
19 since wherever they are planned, they are met with  
20 vehement opposition.

21                   Shouldn't we reconsider our almost  
22 inexhaustible supply of hydrocarbons, the fuels  
23 that make our modern world possible. Isn't  
24 technology making it easier to acquire and cleaner  
25 to use them every day.

1                   It costs about the same to drill one  
2 oil well as it does to build one giant wind  
3 turbine and while that turbine generates the  
4 energy equivalent of about one barrel of oil per  
5 hour, the oil rig produces ten barrels per hour.

6                   It costs less than 50 cents to store  
7 a barrel of oil or its equivalent in natural gas,  
8 but you need \$200 worth of batteries to hold the  
9 energy contained in one oil barrel.

10                  So do you think tearing up the entire  
11 earth mining for minerals --

12                  JUDGE WILLIAMS: Ms. Bishop, your  
13 time is up. Wrap it up, please.

14                  MS. BISHOP: I'm just about done.

15                  I'll end with the only thing green  
16 about solar and wind is the money being thrown at  
17 it or made from it at the taxpayers' expense  
18 through subsidies.

19                  And I will give you a copy of  
20 something that was in the magazine that Hancock  
21 County Wood residents get and this is from the  
22 president. I won't read his statement because  
23 I'll give it to you.

24                  JUDGE WILLIAMS: So before you step  
25 away, could you bring what you gave the court

1 reporter here so I can have a look at it.

2 And you indicated this is?

3 MS. BISHOP: That came from the  
4 Country Living magazine and that was the April  
5 issue for Hancock Wood Electronic.

6 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

7 Any other questions for the witness?

8 MR. LEWIS: I have a question. Scott  
9 Lewis, intervenor. Cass Township, Road 215.

10 Ms. Bishop, are you on the school  
11 board?

12 MS. BISHOP: Yes, I am.

13 MR. LEWIS: Has Arcadia school  
14 received any money from, the promised money from  
15 Border Basin?

16 MS. BISHOP: Not that I'm aware of.

17 MR. LEWIS: Thank you.

18 MS. BISHOP: I mean, I don't know. I  
19 think they have. I'm a brand new member, so I'm  
20 not just really up with things yet.

21 MR. LEWIS: Thank you.

22 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

23 Next, we have Larry Rodriguez.

24 ///

25

1 - - -

2 LARRY RODRIGUEZ,

3 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
4 follows:

5 - - -

6 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Larry Rodriguez. My  
8 address is 22432 Washington Township 218,  
9 Fostoria.

10 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Do you live or work  
11 in the project area?

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Not close. I live in  
13 Washington Township, though.

14 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Please proceed.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have two  
16 stepchildren that attended school at Arcadia. I  
17 don't live in the village, around. I know a lot  
18 of the people there.

19 I understand what's going on, you  
20 know, preserving our farmland, which I think is a  
21 big thing, but I also -- I have been an  
22 electrician my whole life. I understand what  
23 we're trying to do.

24 I'm for the project. Believe me, I  
25 understand everything that these people are

1 saying. It's true, this is their livelihood, this  
2 is where they grew up. They're passionate about  
3 it. I get it.

4 But I feel our world's in a bad state  
5 and if we can do a little bit to help it, this is  
6 it. I know there's always -- I say that we can  
7 help it and there's always a group that can say,  
8 no, you can't, it's bad.

9 But I also believe that if everyone  
10 always said not in our backyard, we'd be nowhere.  
11 So, yes, I'm for it.

12 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir.

13 Any questions for the witness?

14 MR. OVERMYER: Yes.

15 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Can you come forward  
16 so the court reporter can get your question.

17 MR. OVERMYER: My name is Jeff  
18 Overmyer. The question I have is have you drove  
19 by the project site or seen what the project  
20 pictures, maps, or anything of the project?

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I sure have. I go by  
22 there all the time. Where I live over by the  
23 reservoir, across from Reservoir 6, back way into  
24 Findlay, this is the way I go. I know the family,  
25 I know people here, yes, so the answer is yes.

1                   MR. OVERMYER:   Okay.   And you  
2 understand they're putting a substation in front  
3 of eight people's houses?

4                   MR. RODRIGUEZ:   Yeah.   If you -- so  
5 if you're familiar where I live, right across the  
6 road on 12, you'll understand there's a big  
7 substation there.

8                   MR. OVERMYER:   Is it lit up like a  
9 Christmas tree?

10                  MR. RODRIGUEZ:   Well, it is now  
11 because now because of something that all the  
12 utilities did, something called SCADA to where  
13 they can monitor their substations through  
14 electronics now, everything is lit up.

15                  MR. OVERMYER:   Thank you.

16                  JUDGE WILLIAMS:   Thank you again,  
17 sir.

18                         Next, we have Jason Rinker.

19                                 - - -

20                                 JASON RINKER,  
21 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
22 follows:

23                                 - - -

24                   JUDGE WILLIAMS:   Thank you.   Would  
25 you please state and spell your name for the

1 record.

2 MR. RINKER: Jason Rinker,  
3 R-I-N-K-E-R, at 3777 County Road 236, Findlay.  
4 That is in Cass Township. I also am a trustee for  
5 Cass Township as well.

6 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir.  
7 Please proceed.

8 MR. RINKER: I just want to thank you  
9 guys for your time and just want to make sure that  
10 you consider both for and against the project in  
11 making your decision and take that all into  
12 account before ruling on what is going to happen.

13 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Does the township  
14 have a position for or against the project?

15 MR. RINKER: Against.

16 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Any questions for  
17 the witness?

18 (There are no questions.)

19 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you for your  
20 testimony this evening.

21 Next, we have Cecil Boes.

22 ///

23

24

25



1                                   - - -

2                                   CECIL BOES,

3   Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
4   follows:

5                                   - - -

6                                   JUDGE WILLIAMS:   Thank you.   Would  
7   you please state and spell your name for the  
8   record?

9                                   MR. BOES:   Cecil Boes, C-E-C-I-L,  
10   B-O-E-S.

11                                  JUDGE WILLIAMS:   And your address,  
12   sir?

13                                  MR. BOES:   5139 Township Road 238,  
14   Arcadia.

15                                  JUDGE WILLIAMS:   Do you live or work  
16   within the project area?

17                                  MR. BOES:   I am the landowner of the  
18   project.

19                                  JUDGE WILLIAMS:   Please proceed.

20                                  MR. BOES:   Many in this community  
21   have known my family and I your whole life, but  
22   I'll go ahead and introduce myself all over again.  
23   I'm a proud farmer.   I'm the type of guy that  
24   likes to focus on the big picture, including the  
25   past, future, and the present.

1                   In the past, my land has been our  
2 family's pride and joy for the past 75 years. My  
3 children and grandchildren are this place's future  
4 and I hope will take over this farm and continue  
5 to work to feed America. But right now, in the  
6 present, I will do what's best to grow, preserve,  
7 and sustain my farm.

8                   When I was approached with the idea  
9 of placing solar farm on part of my farming  
10 operation, I was skeptical. Is this safe, is it  
11 profitable, is this in the best interest of my  
12 community? Is this something I will be proud to  
13 pass on to my grandchildren.

14                  So I did my research and found my  
15 answer. Solar farms are safe. I read the reports  
16 and they are hundreds of pages. The Board staff  
17 recommended this project for approval. The  
18 experts have spoken.

19                  Solar farms are completely nontoxic  
20 and harmless to farms and families. They don't  
21 leak chemicals. They are built to endure hail  
22 storms and severe weather.

23                  Solar farms are profitable and good  
24 for our community. Solar farms provide guaranteed  
25 payments for 30 years to the farmer that exceed

1 the market prices of corn, beans, or wheat.

2 Beauty is in eye of the beholder and  
3 solar farms have no affect on property values.

4 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Please be  
5 respectful.

6 MR. BOES: The Border Basin Solar  
7 project will bring a half million dollars per year  
8 to our underfunded schools without raising taxes  
9 or decreasing state funding. Arcadia local school  
10 is shrinking. Our sons and daughters and  
11 grandchildren deserve the best teachers,  
12 classrooms and athletic facilities we can give  
13 them. This funding is our opportunity to give our  
14 kids the best.

15 I've made a lot of business  
16 decisions, some good, some bad. The Border Basin  
17 Solar project is good business for my farm, our  
18 community, and our schools.

19 Solar farms preserve farmland for  
20 future generations. Most of my ground will remain  
21 in use for crops. When these panels are removed  
22 30 years, they will leave my ground rested and  
23 ready to be farmed again by my grandchildren.

24 I am assured through contracts and  
25 conversations with the developer that my drainage

1 and my neighbor's drainage will be maintained at  
2 the current level or better. This is very  
3 important to me. I have put my own sweat and  
4 dollar to improve draining around my land by  
5 cleaning out drainage ditches.

6 At the end of the day, I'm not a tree  
7 hugger. I'm a farmer who is a steward of the land  
8 I own. I have the right to use this ground for  
9 its highest and best use. For a small portion of  
10 my ground, the highest and best use is farming the  
11 energy of the sun.

12 As a conservative, I believe part of  
13 what makes America great is our constitutional  
14 property rights as landowners. As President  
15 Washington said, freedom and property rights are  
16 inseparable. You can't have one without the  
17 other. If we allow my property rights to be  
18 violated, what's to stop an angry mob from  
19 violating yours.

20 It is my job to make wise decisions  
21 on how to use my land and not a Facebook group.  
22 About the group here tonight -- well -- in  
23 opposition to this project and money for my family  
24 and our schools.

25 I hope the Board will realize many

1 people are somewhat outside the community, not  
2 close to our farms at all so I don't think it  
3 really should matter that much. At the end of the  
4 day, Border Basin Solar project will be our  
5 neighbor for years to come. I, along with the  
6 project developers, and the Ohio Power Siting  
7 Board have worked hard to ensure that it will be a  
8 good one.

9 I hope you vote to approve this  
10 project. I'm proud of my farm and family and I'm  
11 proud to be part of the Border Basin Solar  
12 project.

13 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you for your  
14 testimony.

15 Any questions?

16 MR. OVERMYER: Yeah.

17 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Please come forward,  
18 sir. Mr. Overmyer, please proceed.

19 MR. OVERMYER: My question is is you  
20 said that it won't affect people's property values  
21 of your neighbors. Do you have proof, articles,  
22 any information that confirms that?

23 MR. BOES: Not per se, no. I mean,  
24 I've looked at all kind of different things and  
25 the property values is based on what somebody's

1 going to pay you.

2 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you for your  
3 testimony.

4 MR. LEWIS: Scott Lewis with a  
5 question.

6 As Cass Township is zoned  
7 agriculture, there is a state law that violates  
8 that, or I shouldn't say violate, revokes that  
9 because it's an energy generation project. Now is  
10 that violating my property rights?

11 JUDGE WILLIAMS: So that's not a  
12 question of this witness. This witness hasn't  
13 testified in any capacity regarding state law and  
14 local zoning, so if that's a question you have,  
15 sir, you can get it answered either by the  
16 applicant. You can file your question and comment  
17 on the public docket, but this witness has not  
18 provided testimony on that issue and we're not  
19 going to allow him to answer that question.

20 MR. LEWIS: So can I rephrase the  
21 question?

22 JUDGE WILLIAMS: This witness is not  
23 here in that capacity, sir. Thank you.

24 MR. LEWIS: Thank you.

25 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Next we have

1 Stephanie Bisbee.

2 - - -

3 STEPHANIE BISBEE,

4 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
5 follows:

6 - - -

7 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you. Would  
8 you please state and spell your name for the  
9 record?

10 MS. BISBEE: Sure. It's Stephanie  
11 Bisbee. S-T-E-P-H-A-N-I-E, B-I-S-B-E-E.

12 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Your address?

13 MS. BISBEE: Yes. 1915 County Road  
14 216, Arcadia.

15 JUDGE WILLIAMS: And do you live or  
16 work within the project area?

17 MS. BISBEE: I live in Cass Township.

18 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Please proceed.

19 MS. BISBEE: Yes. Going to be short  
20 and sweet. We currently live within 100 yards  
21 from where the interconnection substation is going  
22 to be. We bought the property in January of last  
23 year, did not find out about this solar project  
24 until late, mid to late summer.

25 We are building a barndominium on the

1 property and we're told that the temperature of  
2 our property will be 10 to 15 degrees hotter and  
3 the fact that we live right next to the substation  
4 is a problem. And the fact that property value is  
5 probably going to go down and we've not even  
6 completely built our home yet.

7                   We have five generations that have  
8 gone to Van Buren schools and we bought this  
9 property knowing that our grandchildren would be  
10 going to school there. And my husband and I, of  
11 course, oppose the project. We had major flooding  
12 last year because of the field and the ditch that  
13 connects to where the substation is going to be.  
14 Our property is a little bit raised, but it was up  
15 to our driveway. It's just something -- I  
16 probably never bought the property had we known  
17 this was going to be put there.

18                   And, you know, it's just -- it's kind  
19 of upsetting that this is all transpiring over the  
20 last year that we never knew about it, so this is  
21 really all I had to say.

22                   JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you, Ms.  
23 Bisbee for your testimony.

24                   Any questions for the witness?

25                   (There are no questions.)



1 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

2 Next we have Ann Fisher.

3 MS. FISHER: I'm declining.

4 (Inaudible statement.)

5 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Of course, the staff  
6 is here. They will help you facilitate that.

7 Next, we have Samantha Peoples.

8 - - -

9 SAMANTHA PEOPLES,

10 Being first duly sworn was examined/testified as  
11 follows:

12 - - -

13 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you. How'd  
14 the game go?

15 MS. PEOPLES: We run-ruled them,  
16 16-2.

17 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Would you please  
18 state and spell your name for the record.

19 MISS PEOPLES: Yeah. Samantha  
20 Peoples. S-A-M-A-N-T-H-A, P-E-O-P-L-E-S.

21 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you. And your  
22 address?

23 MISS PEOPLES: 16870 Township Road  
24 215, Arcadia, Ohio.

25 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Do you live or work

1 or go to school within the project area?

2 MISS PEOPLES: Yeah, I go to school  
3 at Arcadia.

4 JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you. Please  
5 proceed. Don't be nervous, you're okay.

6 MISS PEOPLES: Hi, my name is  
7 Samantha Peoples and I'm 15 years old. I'm here  
8 to speak out against the solar field from a kid's  
9 point of view.

10 When I think of solar farms, I don't  
11 think of some awful creation that will ruin our  
12 environment, but I do think of something that is  
13 going to ruin our farm ground.

14 Less than two percent of the  
15 population farms and I don't think people realize  
16 how important that two percent is. I mean, we are  
17 your main food sources. We provide corn and  
18 soybeans for oils and even some fuels.

19 Corn and soybeans truly go into  
20 almost everything you as a consumer buy daily, but  
21 then there's also the wheat business. The tops  
22 are used for flour and grains and then the straw  
23 is taken up and provided as bedding for your  
24 animals or even ways to insulate certain things.

25 Not only is there food crop, but

1 there's cotton too. Without cotton, we have no  
2 clothes, blankets, sheets, or any other essential  
3 textiles we use daily. What would you do as a  
4 consumer if we ran out of farm ground? How would  
5 we get the things we need?

6 I know not everyone cares about it  
7 from a farm aspect, so we're going to move into a  
8 more urban/suburban point of view. The town you  
9 live in now is probably a cute little place to  
10 you. You probably wake up, look outside and say,  
11 ah, it's a beautiful day outside.

12 What if all of that was ripped away  
13 and the next thing you know, you're waking up and  
14 looking at an entire wall of plain solar panels?  
15 Not only are they awful to look at, but they're  
16 noisy. If you work night shift, could you imagine  
17 trying to sleep during the day and just hearing a  
18 constant buzzing?

19 They're almost 15 feet tall and  
20 20 feet wide. It would be like dark even in the  
21 midst of the day due to the way they're faced.  
22 They're placed in the south so that way they can  
23 get constant sunlight. Do you really want to wake  
24 up and look at a wall of wire fencing with a bunch  
25 of gray panels?

1                   I ask this because there has to be  
2 security around them and the fencing is the only  
3 way to go to prevent animals and unauthorized  
4 humans to enter the farm.

5                   Going on from there, when they're  
6 putting these panels in, they're not even focusing  
7 on where they're putting them. They want to drive  
8 posts into the ground between our field tiles,  
9 which are our main sources of drainage in the  
10 fields. When the water has nowhere to go, what's  
11 going to happen? Oh, that's right -- flooding.

12                  The roads can only be slanted so much  
13 to prevent flooding and when you can no longer  
14 count on the field tiles to help that, how are we  
15 going to drain the rest of the water.

16                  I get the panels are a good thing for  
17 the renewable energy sources since they depend on  
18 the sun, but what do you think would happen if  
19 they were on top of parking garages or even the  
20 buildings they are supplying the energy to?

21                  Why do you have to take away the  
22 source of income and living for some people. My  
23 stepdad has a burning passion for farming, but he  
24 also works two other jobs on top of it because the  
25 farming business is continually decreasing and

1 we're losing land to farm.

2           My neighbor's a full-time farmer with  
3 no other job. He makes a living on farming. What  
4 is he supposed to do when his land gets ripped out  
5 from under him to put in these panels? Just think  
6 about it from our perspectives. You're taking  
7 away our lives by putting in something that  
8 doesn't even benefit us.

9           They may be good because we can never  
10 run out of sunlight, but they're not benefitting  
11 us where they're putting them. Why can't we use  
12 the excess space on top of the buildings? I mean,  
13 the panels themselves are big enough to cover just  
14 one single car so why not put one over parking  
15 garages?

16           They're also good because they don't  
17 pollute the environment. For example, burning  
18 fossil fuels produces a huge amount of air  
19 pollution, but only in the area it's burned. But  
20 when you put them in our fields, you're hurting  
21 the environment by taking away your very own  
22 renewable resources called daily necessities.

23           Once, again, I'm not against them,  
24 but I am for them in the right places. If they  
25 were benefitting the community you're tearing

1    apart, it would be different, but I truly cannot  
2    support them when they're going up to get some  
3    extra money. The money and the electricity coming  
4    from them is going nowhere in this community. It  
5    is all leaving the state and going to business  
6    operations that aren't even standing yet.

7                    Just remember, without farmers most  
8    of the world will not get the goods supplied that  
9    it needs and this little village we all love and  
10   cherish so much is going to end up a ghost town  
11   because of a handful of greedy landowners that  
12   call this place home. They call themselves  
13   farmers, but a true farmer would not sell out  
14   their own land or their community.

15                   We need to thank God every day for  
16   the land we have because once it's gone, there is  
17   no more.

18                   (Applause.)

19                   JUDGE WILLIAMS: Every young adult  
20   who testifies does an exceptional job and you're  
21   no exception. Thank you so much for your  
22   testimony.

23                   I don't see any questions from  
24   anyone.

25                   Again, thank you. You have a great

1 evening and congratulations on your victory.

2 MISS PEOPLES: Thank you.

3 JUDGE SCHABO: That concludes our  
4 list. I will go back to Ms. Fisher if she would  
5 like to make a comment. Otherwise, if you're  
6 happy filing your public comment, that's fine.  
7 You're just the last name on the list. I know you  
8 passed. I always go back to people that pass.

9 MS. FISHER: Yes.

10 JUDGE SCHABO: Okay. Thank you all  
11 for coming here this evening.

12 The Board really appreciates your  
13 participation. Again, you may file public  
14 comments.

15 This concludes this evening's public  
16 hearing.

17 Thank you very much and have a good  
18 evening.

19 We are adjourned.

20 (Thereupon, the hearing adjourned at  
21 7:31 p.m.)

22 - - -

23

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1 STATE OF OHIO )  
 ) SS: C E R T I F I C A T E  
2 COUNTY OF MERCER )

3 I, Susan E. Ingraham, Registered  
4 Professional Reporter, and Notary Public in and  
5 for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and  
6 qualified, do hereby certify that the within  
7 hearing was by me reduced to stenographic notes in  
8 the presence of said witnesses; that I did later  
9 transcribe the said stenographic notes; that the  
10 foregoing is a true and correct transcription of  
11 their testimony as given on March 31, 2022;

12 I further certify that this  
13 deposition was taken at the time and place in the  
14 foregoing caption specified and that I am not a  
15 relative, counsel or attorney of either party or  
16 otherwise interested in the outcome of this  
17 action.

18                                   IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
19   set my hand and affix my seal of office this 3rd  
20   day of April, 2022.

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 Susan E. Ingraham, RPR  
Notary Public in and for the  
State of Ohio.

24 My Commission Expires September 1, 2025.

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

**Case No(s). 21-0277-EL-BGN**

Summary: Transcript Public Hearing of March 31, 2022, in Findlay, Ohio  
electronically filed by Ms. Susan Ingraham on behalf of Ingraham, Susan Ms.