

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 21-0669  
**Date:** Friday, April 8, 2022 7:49:37 AM

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Dear Ohio Power Siting Board Staff and Board,

I am writing in support of South Branch Solar in Hancock County, Ohio. South Branch Solar is a wonderful way for Hancock County to get involved in the current economic development happening in Ohio without losing our rural land. Development is coming to our rural communities whether we like it or not, and solar is a great way to ensure that we will keep farmland in our community for years to come.

Many businesses are now looking to build factories in states that include renewable energy in their power grid. With the recent announcement of Intel coming to Ohio, this has become more important than ever. To continue economic growth for not only Hancock County, but Ohio, we must be open to the development of renewable energy sources in our rural communities.

Solar makes for a quiet, peaceful neighbor. These panels are low lying, low emission, and low impact for the land. When the project's life is over, the solar panels will be removed from the land and it will be turned back into farm ground. In an ever-developing state, this rural land is a valuable resource to keep in our community. Many live in Hancock County because we value this rural land, and South Branch would ensure that this land is still rural in 30 years, even with possible development that will come to Hancock. By allowing South Branch Solar to build their solar farm in our community, we will be ensuring our land and our legacy for many generations to come.

In addition to this, South Branch Solar will bring many jobs to the community throughout its project life. These jobs will create even further economic growth for local businesses, something that is especially important coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, which greatly negatively impacted our local businesses.

Overall, South Branch Solar is a wonderful way for Hancock County to show that they are committed to the economic development of Ohio without giving up their rural land, and we should support this project because it reflects many of our values as Ohioans.

I ask the OPSB staff and board to approve South Branch Solar.

Thank you,

Melissa Materni

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Summary: Public Comment of Melissa Materni, via website, electronically filed by  
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing