



Ohio Power Siting Board
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Re: Case Number 21-0669-EL-BGN

April 10, 2022

Dear Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board,

On behalf of First Solar, I am writing to express the company's support for the South Branch Solar project (Case Number 21-0669-EL-BGN) in Hancock County.

First Solar is America's largest solar panel manufacturer. Our company was founded in Northwest Ohio by glass genius Harold McMaster. Since our birth, First Solar has invested more than \$2 billion in Ohio and has grown to be the only American company to rank among the world's ten largest solar panel manufacturers. Today, we employ more than **1,600 associates** at our two Northwest Ohio facilities and our third plant is well into construction with the promise of adding **700 more full-time manufacturing jobs** upon its completion in 2023. Our regional supply chain network spans more than **220 Ohio companies**, further amplifying the regional impacts of our continued investments in the state.

Last year, First Solar announced its exit from its U.S. project development business and the sale of its U.S. development pipeline to Leeward Renewable Energy. As part of that transaction, Leeward also made a commitment to purchasing significant volumes of First Solar's panels – its panel commitment to date is **1.8 gigawatts**, which is **equivalent to more than a year's-worth of production capacity from the company's Perrysburg 2 manufacturing plant**. Commitments like Leeward's have supported First Solar's continued growth and solidified our global leadership as a solar panel manufacturer.

South Branch Solar will benefit the local community not only through its local tax contributions, but also through the creation of a regional job training program.

Many companies, including First Solar, have made public commitments to using renewable energy. Renewable energy projects such as South Branch Solar will support those businesses and help them to achieve their goals, providing continued economic opportunities for the state of Ohio.

For all of the above reasons, First Solar strongly supports the South Branch Solar project and encourages the OPSB to approve the project.

Sincerely,

Mike Koralewski
Chief Manufacturing Operations Officer

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Summary: Public Comment of Mike Koralewski, Chief Manufacturing Operations
Officer, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing