

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: public comment 21-0960-EL-BGN
Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 1:26:21 PM

Subject: Case Number #21-0960-EL-BGN, Project Chipmunk Solar

Greetings,

I am writing to you as a participating landowner in the Chipmunk Solar project being developed by Geenex Solar and EDF Renewables. Like many others in the community, we had questions when we were first approached about using our land for a solar facility. Since that initial meeting, Geenex Solar and EDF Renewables staff have shown us the benefits of responsible solar development and how our lands will be cared for. Staff have been open to working with us, hearing and addressing our concerns. They have truly been interested and involved in the needs of our community. We feel strongly that the Chipmunk Solar project will be an asset to our community and to Pickaway County for the following reason:.

- Solar will increase revenues for city, county, and state. Property taxes paid by solar farms generate significant revenue for the counties and communities they are built in, helping fund schools, services and other public works.
- Solar provides an influx of money for property owners and creates business within the local supply chain. Landowners get an excellent return on their land—money that is often not available through other means. Businesses in construction, hospitality, food and beverage and many others also get several years of increased business thanks to construction and ongoing operations of solar facilities.
- Solar will not hurt property values. Several experienced land appraisers have studied the impact of solar farms using a method called matched pair analysis. This is a textbook method used by appraisers for measuring the effects of proposed developments. Their conclusion is that solar farms do not negatively affect property values. Solar farms are passive land uses that are quiet and do not generate any emissions.
- Solar will not harm the environment or the farmland—in fact, just the opposite. Solar farms do not emit any gases or release anything into the environment. Posts that support the solar panels are driven into the ground and no concrete is used to anchor them. Farmland is allowed to rest, stay in grass, and is ready to be farmed again after decommissioning.
- Most solar panels are not within view. Since solar panels have a low profile, setbacks and vegetative screening can be used around areas of the solar farm boundary to mitigate viewshed concerns.
- Farming can coexist with solar. This is not a zero-sum game; solar and farming are not mutually exclusive. It's possible to use land beneath panels to graze sheep or plant beneficial pollinators. The land buffering the project could be used for cattle grazing or to grow plants or trees that are beneficial to the region. This allows communities like ours to get the economic benefits of solar while staying true to our agricultural roots.

I understand and share the desire to protect this place we call home. It's clear to me utility-scale solar is one way we can protect the community—through new funds for schools, programs,

landowners, and contractors; by protecting greenspace and scenic roads and ensuring developments for housing, retail or industry don't do permanent damage to this land during the lifetime of the solar project; by preserving farmland and allowing it to rest; by contributing to sustainable, clean energy we can be proud of for years to come.

Solar will be a win for all residents of Pickaway County.

Sincerely,

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Summary: Public Comment of Robert Gerstemeier, via website, electronically filed
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