

**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Ohio Power Siting Board  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Kensington Solar Project - 21-0764-EL-BGN

Dear Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board,

I write to express my serious concerns with a proposed project in Columbiana County, known as, "Kensington Solar." It has come to my attention from a number of my constituents in the community that this project is being proposed without due diligence in regard to both the Canadian company proposing the project, and the small number of landowners who would be the only financial beneficiaries of this enormous project. Not to mention the huge negative consequences for the rest of the entire community.

As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I sit on the House Committee on Energy & Commerce, where I frequently examine the issues and policies surrounding our energy grid and the energy sources that fuel it, in an effort to ensure affordable, reliable, resilient power to businesses and residents in our communities. Unfortunately, what we have seen in recent years is this "Rush to Green" that has led to a proliferation of perverse incentives to rapidly build expensive, weather-dependent renewables like wind and solar – projects that need enormous amounts of land to generate the equivalent power compared to more affordable, reliable energy resources such as coal and natural gas.

I am told that this project could ultimately cover almost two square miles of land directly around Summitville, Ohio, in the midst of manufacturing, mining, and farming country, and not to mention, our longtime residents who have lived in the area for years, and others who are attracted to our region for its scenic, rural beauty. This project would irrevocably change the centuries-old character of this historic, beautiful area in Eastern Ohio.

This type of wrong-headed thinking is not new in Appalachia. Residents of our communities for over a hundred years have had to deal with outsiders showing up and promising prosperity. But in the end, they just use our beautiful region for its resources in order to get a short-term gain and leave local residents holding the long-term bag. And as you well know, our region is a famously cloudy part of the country for much of the year, so it concerns me that in spite of this, so many solar projects are being proposed. I dare say, residents of Ohio's large metropolitan areas like Columbus, Cleveland, and Cincinnati would not appreciate their suburban land that could be used for economic development, housing, and other important uses being set aside for projects such as these.

The sad fact is that these companies are using our region not for its sunshine, but for its affordable land, to maximize a quick profit through a series of state and federal tax credits. Projects like this find their way into Eastern and Southeastern Ohio, because these companies see our working-class communities and senior citizens as an easy mark. They see rural Appalachians as people who, unlike

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coastal elites in places like New York or California, lack the sophisticated financial and legal resources needed to oppose unsightly, wasteful renewable projects like this one.

Additionally, as you know, many areas in rural Ohio still suffer with the lack of broadband internet, and even cell phone service, which has resulted in my office receiving numerous calls from residents who have no opportunity to hear about public meetings or plans for these sorts of projects until it is much too late in the process. In many cases, my constituents don't find out about projects like this one until ground is already being broken.

This is unacceptable, and therefore, I respectfully request that you use your authority to oppose this project. This project will result in very little sustained job growth given the enormous resources and land being utilized; and in my view, the downsides far outweigh the benefits for this small, tight-knit community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B".

Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities  
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Summary: Public Comment of Bill Johnson, via website, electronically filed by  
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