

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
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**From:** Bruce Workman <Bruce\_Workman@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2022 2:41 PM  
**To:** Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** Case Number 21-0277-EL-BGN

There is a scene in "2001:A Space Odyssey" where the monolith first appears and the reaction of the locals is to jump, shout, and throw things at it. Although it is fiction, it serves as a valid model for the way humans have reacted to new technology throughout our history. In the early stages of the Industrial Revolution, a band of textile workers believed the new machines, run by the recently developed steam engine, were going to make their jobs obsolete. The Luddites, named after weaver Ned Ludd, were a secret society devoted to sabotaging the machinery they viewed as a threat and later included any new technology.

The Luddites have been confined to history, but their philosophy lives on. The modern version opposes any renewable energy resource. Instead of sabotage, they use disinformation, misinformation, and political actions. I have created a new acronym for these modern Luddites: CAP or citizens against progress. Now that Hancock County has a chapter we have HCAP.

CAP members react in a knee-jerk fashion to any plan for a larger-scale renewable energy facility. In Logan County, it was wind turbines. The residents of the Indian Lake area formed their chapter of CAP. One resident claimed he was protecting the jewel of northwest Ohio. I guess he had a different definition of a jewel. I never considered a shallow lake surrounded by rundown trailer parks anything precious, but to each his own. The fact is now the same as in the days of the Luddites, raw emotion takes the place of logic and reason.

I remember an early TV ad aired by the "Friends of Indian Lake". It showed a woman and her children standing at an open screen door, that had apparently been blown off its hinges, their hair was blown back, and they were struggling against a gale or hurricane-force wind. The next shot shows a wind turbine turning faster than any airplane propellor. The ad was quickly taken down because laughter was not the response they were after. The chapter of Logan Citizens Against Progress eventually got their way and a some farmers in Hardin County made a lot of money.

This was just an example of the scare tactics that are employed. One was shadow

flicker. The claim was that the flicker caused by the turning turbines caused headaches and even seizures. There were two problems with this that I can see. 1. The turbines are not that close to your house and 2. Nobody is forcing you to stare at them. The only legitimate concern is the effect on raptors, birds of prey, not the creatures you saw in Jurassic Park. This is a problem that will have to be addressed, perhaps with patterns of more visible colors.

Unfortunately, the members of CAP are also science deniers who think we can continue to burn fossil fuels unabated without consequence. I used to work in Texas at a company that made parts that went down the oil wells, including blow-out preventers. We had to design these parts to be resistant to a variety of toxic chemicals that were used in drilling mud. These chemicals along with other byproducts would eventually leach into the aquifer. We have also seen the news stories about flammable drinking water, but this is all someplace other than here and not a direct effect on us so to hell with them.

I mention the problems with oil wells because possible contamination of the sewers is one of the arguments against solar farms. There was a mention of tile displacement but that seems like a stretch to me as do nearly all their arguments.

Distilled the actions of HCAP and the county commissioners, who care only about the future of the county up to the next election, are illogical and harmful. I think we do John Hancock an injustice and should consider changing the name to Ludd county if renewables are kept out.

The cost of not switching to renewable energy is much greater than any imagined short-term problem but I know I will never convince those who put more stock in their gut feeling than science. They only want to believe in science when it fits their current lifestyles. I am reminded of the Taliban who want to return to 4<sup>th</sup>-century culture but have no problem with cell phones.

You are going to hear a lot of misinformation today. I only ask that you require evidence other than second-hand memes from social media. The crux of the argument here is how much we should control a landowner's use of his or her land. The problem with the "Save our Lands" slogan is that it is not their lands that we are discussing.

Don't shout and scream at the monolith. Embrace change and embrace progress. Thank you.

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Summary: Public Comment of Bruce Workman, via website, electronically filed by  
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