

April 24, 2021

Matt Butler
Ohio Power Siting Board
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus Ohio 43215

RE: Ohio Power Siting Board Case # 21-960-EL-BGN

Dear Mr. Butler:

We are writing to you as participating landowners in the Chipmunk Solar project being developed by Geenex Solar and EDF Renewables. When we were initially approached concerning using our land as part of a solar project, we had questions as many people in the community did. Since our first contact with Geenex Solar and EDF Renewables, the staff of both organizations have shown us the benefits of responsible solar development and how our lands will be cared for. The staff of both Geenex Solar and EDF Renewables have been willing to take time from their busy schedules to listen to and address our questions and concerns. They have been very interested and involved in the needs of the community. We firmly believe that the Chipmunk Solar project will be a benefit to our community, to Pickaway County, and to the state.

Solar will increase revenues for city, county, and state. The property taxes paid by solar farms generate significant revenue for the counties and communities in which they are built. Thus, providing additional and meaningful funding for schools, services, and other public works.

Solar provides an influx of money for property owners and creates business within the local supply chain and on up to the national level. 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. The additional funds that landowners will earn during the life of the solar project will also offer the opportunity for the landowners to invest in their property that is not in the solar facility. This could mean maintenance on existing buildings, construction of new buildings / facilities which will continue to allow local businesses and the community to prosper over the life of the project, and well past the life of the project.

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. The farmland will have a grass cover which will protect it from erosion during the life of the project, it will be 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 will be used around areas of the solar farm boundary to mitigate view 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 pollinator habitat. The land buffering the project could be used for grazing cattle or to grow plants, including trees, that are beneficial to the area. This allows communities like ours to get the economic benefits of solar while remaining an agricultural community.

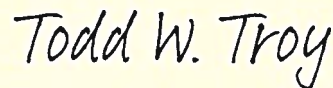
As fifth generation landowners we plan to pass the farm onto the next generation. Therefore, we understand and share the desire to protect this place we call home. Having grown up in Jackson and Deer Creek Townships, it is clear to me/us that utility – scale solar is one way we can protect the community – through new funding for schools, programs, landowners, and contractors; by protecting greenspace and scenic roads and ensuring developments for housing, retail, and 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. Julia's grandfather was a staunch supporter and promoter of rural electrification in the 1930's, we are now approaching a century later. It is evident that we need to work on alternative sources of energy to fill the ever-growing demand for energy. We feel this is necessary and can serve the community well.

Solar power will be a benefit to the residents of Pickaway County.

Sincerely,



Julia E. Troy



Todd W. Troy

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
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Case No(s). 21-0960-EL-BGN

Summary: Public Comment of Julia E. Troy and Todd W. Troy, via website,
electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing