

**From:** [Butler, Matthew](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 20-1605  
**Date:** Monday, May 2, 2022 10:03:39 AM

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**From:** Phillip H <philhicks@bright.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 11:12 PM  
**To:** Butler, Matthew <matthew.butler@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** Birch Solar opposition

I am writing you today to voice my opposition to the Birch Solar 1 solar complex. Our County Commissioners have passed a resolution excluding our county for renewable energy developments of this size and I believe this should have applied to Birch Solar 1.

Not only this but these projects do not cover their costs without our tax subsidies. We cannot afford to lose more farm ground in times when our current President has stated we can expect food shortages.

We cannot afford the health and safety risks associated with this project. We cannot afford the ground water run off problems.

Our community does not need to see 2600 acres of weeds. My company used to do the lawn maintenance on a 30 acre solar complex. I understand the Birch people stating they will plant "friendly" grasses. The weed seeds which lie dormant in the soil are what they overlook. I have seen weeds taller than solar panels more than once. They only request mowing service when the local government threatens fines. It is an eyesore awaiting us. Not to mention the wildlife which will be run out of the area. Where will they go? Neighborhoods? Roadways? It is sad because I've only recently been seeing eagles in the area. It will be tough for them to hunt their food while blinded by solar panels.

Please shut this project down. My wife, and both adult children share these feelings as well.

Sincerely,

Phil, Erin, Graci, and Garrett Hicks  
2710 W Hume Rd  
Lima, OH 45806

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**5/2/2022 11:42:27 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 20-1605-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment of Phil, Erin, Graci, and Garrett Hicks, via website,  
electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing