To: Ohio Power Siting Board  
From: Senator Matt Huffman  
Date: May 20, 2022  
Re: 20-1605-EL-BGN: Birch Solar 1

To Whom It May Concern:

As the State Senator for Ohio’s 12th Senate District, I write to follow up on my October 27th letter and reiterate my opposition to the Birch Solar 1 project.

As noted in my original letter, the Ohio Legislature made clear in Senate Bill 52 that local officials should have a say in how solar and wind energy facilities are developed in their jurisdiction. Each member of the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees filed a letter with the Ohio Power Siting Board on May 10th expressing their continued opposition to the Birch Solar project. That same day, the Allen County Commissioners, Auditor, Treasurer, and Engineer filed a letter noting that – while the project is grandfathered in under Senate Bill 52 – Birch Solar is being developed in a location that the county has designated as a restricted area for large utility facilities. Were the project to be starting at square one, it would be ineligible for development in this location.

It is my understanding that the Birch Solar developers have reached an agreement with a group of local citizens who have been vocally opposed to the project, and the group has dropped its status as intervenors in the case. Regardless of what that agreement may be, the fact remains that local officials and members of the public continue to express concern and opposition to the project.

I remain opposed to the Birch Solar 1 project.

Sincerely,

Matt Huffman  
Senate President  
State Senator, 12th District
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Summary: Public Comment of State Senator Matt Huffman, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing