

## **BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

|  |   |                         |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| In the Matter of the Application of          | ) |                         |
| South Branch Solar LLC, for a Certificate of | ) | Case No: 21-0669-EL-BGN |
| Environmental Compatibility and Public       | ) |                         |
| Need   | ) |                         |

### **Q.1. Please state your name and address.**

A.1. My name is Travis Bohn and my family lives at 3260 Township Road 254, Arcadia, Ohio 44804. Our property is directly across the street from the project area.

### **Q.2. How long have you lived in the community?**

A.2. I have lived in the Arcadia Community my entire 31 years. 3.5 years at this address, and the rest in the Village of Arcadia. I always dreamed of buying this home from my grandparents ever since I was young.

### **Q.3. How long has your family lived in the community?**

A.3. My wife's families as well as mine all lived in this community as far back as great-grandparents. My Grandfather built our home in 1969 and owned it until his passing in 2020.

### **Q.4. On whose behalf are you offering testimony?**

A.4. I am testifying on my own behalf.

### **Q.5. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

A.5. To voice my family's opposition, for the South Branch Solar project, located in Washington Township, Hancock County.

### **Q.6. What is your educational background?**

A.6. I graduated from Arcadia High School in 2009. I got my Bachelor's Degree in Business from The University of Findlay in 2012. I also have countless Fire Safety and EMS certificates.

**Q.7. What is your occupation?**

A.7. I am a full time fire fighter with the City of Findlay, as well as part time employee of the Village of Arcadia. I also am a Lieutenant on the Washington Township Fire Department, which serves the Village of Arcadia, as well as Washington, Cass, Biglick and Marion Townships.

**Q.8. Was this project in the planning process before you bought your property adjacent to the project area?**

A.8. It is hard to answer this question with 100% certainty because of the way this company came in so discreetly. I believe this was in the works around the same time or even before, I was purchasing my home.

**Q.9. Are you familiar with the location that has been proposed for the South Branch project?**

A.9. Yes. I have become familiar with the locations of the proposed project area by reviewing maps of the project area in the application filed with the Ohio Power Siting Board. In my testimony, I will refer to the South Branch Solar project as the "Project" and the land proposed for the site of the project as the "Project Area."

**Q.10. Would you have bought your property knowing that this project was in the planning stages?**

A.10. I would have had to make a very difficult decision, but ultimately I would not have purchased my dream home. If this project gets approval, the value will decrease and I will never be able to sell my home for a respectable price, so then I will be stuck with an undesirable home.

**Q.11. Is the Fire Department having jurisdiction over this project area properly equipped and trained to handle a major incident during construction, or operation of the project?**

A.11. No. A fire at the battery storage facility will deplete all resources readily available to a small volunteer fire dept.

**Q.12. Do you agree with the placement of this project?**

A.12. There are many reasons why I don't think this project is placed in the correct area. If you study the project map, you will see that they aren't developing the fields directly surrounding the participating farmers' houses. I think that should tell the story in itself. They will surround all their neighbors with panels, but heaven forbid they have to look out their windows at them. To add that they weren't even in attendance at the public hearing is also a slap in all their neighbors faces.

Also to put them right up against the Village of Arcadia's entire north boundary is not ideal, preventing any growth for the next 30-40 years. There has been 4 new houses built in the village within the past few years, with another one coming soon.

The developers keep stating that they have reduced the footprint to appease the neighbors' concerns, but that is very inaccurate. They lost those farms due to access issues and historical reasons. If they wanted to keep this project small the company wouldn't have sent out their City of Findlay soldiers to try to get enough signatures to reverse the Hancock County Commissioners decision on exclusion zones. They were unsuccessful in getting the referendum on the ballot. That is the only reason this project won't spread like a cancer throughout the entire county.

**Q.13. Do you think this project will have a negative effect on wildlife?**

A.13. Yes I do. The day I moved into our house, there was a bald eagle sitting across the street that will be in the project area. Also I have watched deer travel the fence row to my north to make their way to the north east corner of Arcadia. These animals will either be forced onto the roadways, or just simply forced out of the entire area. Only rodents and small wildlife will be able to travel through their fence, which will allow them to multiply uncontrollably.

**Q.14. Is there any flooding that already occurs around your property?**

A.14. Yes when there is a heavy rain, water will back up and run across the roadway between me and my neighbors to the south. The water pours over the road and into their waterway that runs through their bison pasture. When this field is developed, it will worsen this flooding which also is one of the outlets for the majority of the north end of The Village of Arcadia.

**Q.15. Has the developing company done anything for the community to show its support?**

A.15. The developers have done some community outreach and support, but not for the community that it is being developed in. They have sponsored a parade, and helped provide Christmas gifts for children that are less fortunate. However, all of these efforts have taken place within the City of Findlay. They haven't done anything for the Arcadia community to show that they will be "good neighbors." All I have heard of them doing is trying to buy everyone's silence. All the supporters keep talking about how much money the school will get. True, the school could always use more money, however, I believe that our school has used their tax money very responsibly. I will be very proud to drop my son off at that school knowing that I got a full ride scholarship from my education at that school. To use our children as pawns and claiming that our school system is inadequate is sad, and frankly just incorrect.

**Q.16. Do you believe in personal property rights?**

A.16. Yes I do. However, when an industrial utility can disguise itself as agricultural by finding a loophole, there is no need for zoning anymore. I would never do something on my property that would destroy the value and quality of life of my neighbors.

**Q. 17.** Will the “significant sound” during construction interfere with your family’s life?

A.17. Yes, very much so. I work a 24 hour shift, and sometimes get no sleep at all on duty. I need to rest after my shift to prepare for the day, with the construction noise going on around my property from sunrise to sunset this will be impossible. My one year old son also has been seeing an audiologist at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. With his hearing issues, I can’t begin to explain the danger this noise will put on his development.

**Q.18.** Does this conclude your direct testimony?

A.18. Yes. Thank you for your time.

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**Case No(s). 21-0669-EL-BGN**

Summary: Testimony electronically filed by Mr. Travis Bohn on behalf of Bohn,  
Travis David Mr.