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Shawnee Township

Board of Trustees

2530 Ft. Amanda Road, Lima, OH 45806
Phone: 419-991-8706

Ohio Power Siting Board
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Date: 6-7-2022

Re: Comment on Birch Solar 1 Pending Case Number 20-1605-EL-BGN

Dear Ohio Power Siting Board:

We would first like to thank you for the time you have dedicated to review and evaluate the application for the Birch Solar 1 project. As the elected officials representing Allen County and Shawnee Township, the Township where 70% of the project is proposed, we feel it is important to express the concerns we continue to receive from our local residents and businesses regarding this proposed project.

While documents and testimony provided at the evidentiary hearing may have attempted to portray that the local concerns have been addressed, we continue to hear the contrary. In an attempt to further communicate these concerns, we were notified 5/31/2022 that a new Facebook page "Allen and Auglaize Against Industrial Solar" will be introduced. It is not just residents, a large oil and gas company with pipeline interests has expressed their dismay over the fact that their efforts to speak with Birch Solar 1 have gone unanswered.

As was previously shared with the Power Siting Board, the Allen County Board of Commissioners worked together with every township in Allen County and restricted the areas where utility sized wind and solar projects could be developed. In Shawnee Township, these types of development were restricted down to the industrial parks. This collaborative effort is a testament to the shared concerns both our constituents and elected officials have for these large utility projects in our area. It is important to reiterate that if it were not for the grandfather provision of SB 52, the Birch Solar 1 project would

not be eligible for consideration in Shawnee Township due to the actions taken by the Allen County Commissioners and Shawnee Township Trustees.

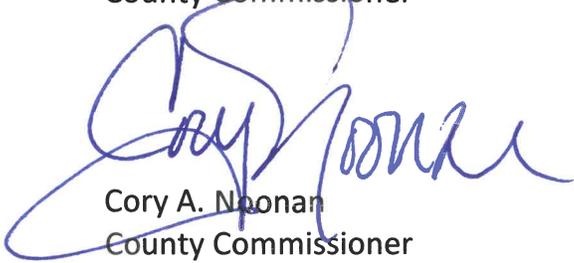
Again, we appreciate the time the Power Siting Board is dedicating to the Birch Solar 1 application. We believe it is important for the Board to understand that many concerns and questions still remain unanswered in Allen County and Shawnee Township as it relates to the application you are considering. We ask that you give these concerns great consideration as you review the application.



Brian G. Winegardner
County Commissioner



Beth A. Seibert
County Commissioner



Cory A. Noonan
County Commissioner



Clark A. Spieles
Township Trustee



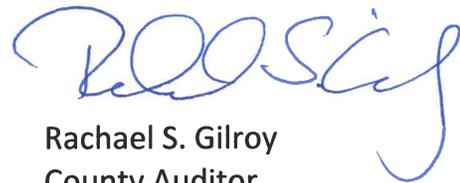
Russell E. Holly
Township Trustee



Theodore L. Ciminillo
Township Trustee



Krista N. Bohn
County Treasurer



Rachael S. Gilroy
County Auditor



Brion E. Rhodes
County Engineer

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
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in

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

Summary: Public Comment of Brian G. Winegardner, Cory A. Nooman, Russell E. Holly, Krista N. Bohn, Brion E. Rhodes Beth A. Seibert, Clark A. Spieles, Theodore L. Ciminillo, Rachael S. Gilroy, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing