

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: public comment 20-1605
Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022 3:09:50 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Subject: LSBP Birch Solar opposition

LSBP is attempting to "run out the clock," and seems to be working.

Due to circumstances I can only describe as "dubious," we have lost the leaders of our opposition to the solar project. Thankfully, the number of those in opposition to the project still far exceeds the number in favor, though I fear the rather lengthy timeline has worn on the opposition both mentally and emotionally -- they've simply had enough of this and want it to be over (myself included), but deep corporate pockets have allowed this to drag-on for many, many months. I understand this is all part of the process, but this is borderline absurd.

State Senate President Matt Huffman's letters to your board perfectly and succinctly articulate the heart of this matter: though the leaders of our grassroots opposition are no longer participating, our locally-elected officials are still very much opposed to the project. Huffman backs residents who will be negatively impacted by this project, as well he should. Huffman also states that if this project were to be proposed today that it would immediately be denied, but due to "grandfathering"...well, here we are. Basically if there's a proposal prior to legislation that outlaws projects such of these and the fate of the pending project is yet to be determined, it can move-forward. Right. It's illegal now, but since it wasn't then, it's not illegal. It is in the process, it is illegal, but we can still allow it. This is a great example of why people are disillusioned with many levels of government.

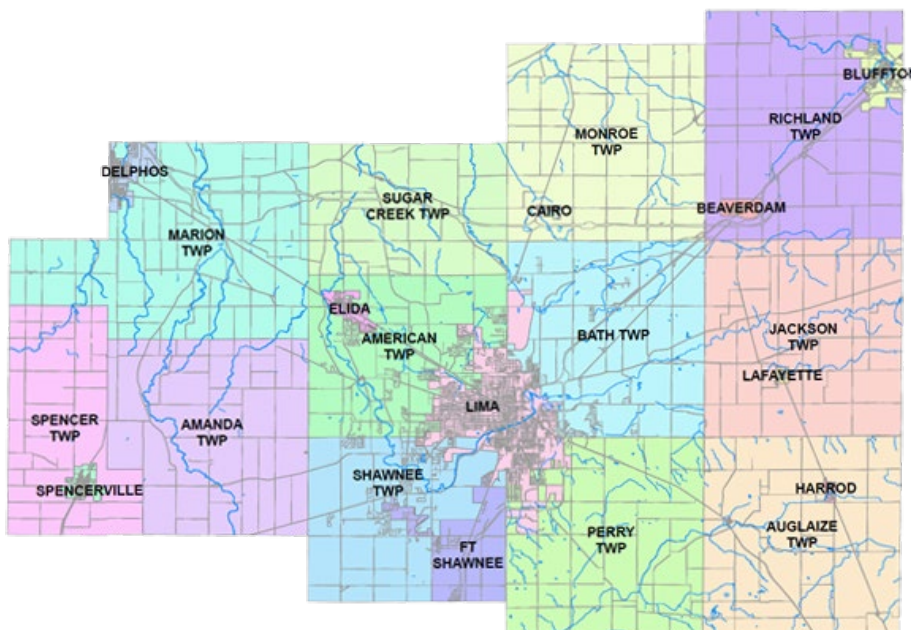
I've seen text accompanying this project stating that it is that of "public need to construct" this facility, but I object to that. The only ones who "need" this are LSBP and Amazon. Shawnee Township and Allen County have been doing without it, and, God willing, hope to continue without.

Another hallmark issue is that of trust. LSBP has not exactly been fully honest and transparent during this process, and that has left them bruised and bloodied. They don't like how that looks and feels, so they continue to try and ram this project through, possible retribution for the fight they've encountered, though their financial investment surely plays a large part, as well. This organization has tons of money backing it, so they can hire massively expensive law firms to draw-out this process, whereas the opposition is private citizens who simply do not have the excess money to leverage the same resources in their fight. We've seen pictures and heard the promises from projects such as this one gone wrong, and we do not wish to have such a massive failure in our backyard. LSBP's promises seem like empty words, that they are only saying what they can to win both public favor and approval for this project. We are overly cautious and skeptical for a reason!

One of my greatest concerns is that of precedent. If this project is approved, it will have open Pandora's Box. Other applications to your board will cite the LSBP approval, and similar companies will run roughshod over other Ohio communities. The domino effect granting this permit will trigger

will be incredible, and NOT in a good way.

Please consider this: if there were actual benefits and gains, more people would be supportive of this project. Also, and I cannot stress this enough, a great many of the people who gave testimony at the fairgrounds are not residents of Shawnee Township or adjacent townships, for that matter, so they have no "skin in the game," so to speak. Most recent public comments in support of the project simply state their support in a single sentence. Such public comments were filed without a single reason to support their claim, and most comments are also lacking where the commenter resides. It's obvious to me that most recent support comments are the result two things: a mass email campaign, and a very recent full-page local newspaper ad. Evidence: a public comment from Stacy Bauer that was filed on 5/19/22 very clearly includes suggestions on how to compose an email for public comment. C'mon, rookie, you're supposed to delete that information so your comment looks genuine! On the other hand, the opposition comments usually give at least a single reason, as well as the address or general area of residence. That should speak volumes to your board. The people in opposition are mostly right there in the thick of it, while those in support are from...where? There was a handful of people from Bluffton (see attached map below) at the hearing at the fairgrounds. Bluffton is over 20 miles to the northeast from the JSMC Tank Plant here in Shawnee Township, with two localities between: the City of Lima, and Bath Township. I completed 17 years of education in Bluffton, so I know these people. Yes, it's pretty simple to write a single sentence in support of this project or attend a meeting and voice your support. You do what you were asked, you check that box, you feel good about yourself. None of the recent supportive comments I read come close to my letter you are reading in both content and length.



I've had my comments published numerous times, and frankly, I'm tired of all of this. This project has absolutely no business being approved. The local citizenry has no interest in this project being approved, as there is zero benefit. I was about to say the cost outweighs the benefits, but there are no benefits that I'm aware of. There will be short-term construction jobs, but they will not be local

people. The full-time employees will number in the very few. The panels contain hazardous materials and are manufactured in overseas slave labor camps. Environmental and health concerns are numerous. Local home and real estate values will suffer. The land will forever and irrevocably be transformed. Local citizens have nothing to gain, yet everything to lose.

I've come to live by the phrase "when in doubt, don't," and I don't think there's better application of it than LSBP's pending permit. Please, members of the board, **DENY THIS PERMIT.**

Respectfully,

-Travis R. Unterbrink
Shawnee Township resident

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
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Summary: Public Comment of Travis R. Unterbrink, via website, electronically filed
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