

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: public comment 20-1605
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:01:08 PM

Subject: Birch Solar Opposition Comments

Dear Mr. Butler,

I'm writing today to express my opposition to the BP light source Birch solar project. I recently heard that since the "Against Birch Solar" organization withdrew its status as an intervener that Birch Solar and BP Light Source say that the opposition has stopped for their projected project. This statement could not be further from the truth. I was majorly discouraged because corporations have an endless supply of money to fight for these projects, and ordinary people cannot compete with that even though we have to live with the results of the decisions made by these corporations and politicians who live 100 miles from the consequences of their decisions.

Throughout my life, I have seen time and time again where corporations come into/around residential areas and put up their pet project and walk away. In the end, the locals have to deal with ruined infrastructure, lower property values, ecological damage, and sometimes health issues created by outsiders (except for a few locals who get rich from the project).

Over the last decade or so, we have started to have an increase in the bald eagle population in this area, and this area has always been home to much wildlife ranging from Deer to Hawks, bald eagles, raccoons, possums Etc. A cursory review of solar's effects on birds would lead one to believe that this project is unsuitable for this area. The last time I checked, the Bald Eagle is on the endangered species list. Something to consider. The fences required to border these industrial solar farms will negatively impact the movement pattern of our local deer population.

Another consideration is that this project size has never been tried in a populated area. A high percentage of homes also rely on groundwater to supply their homes. I will guarantee that BP Light Source or those that get rich from this project will not pay for water issues should they arise. Representatives talk about having "Funds" set up to return things to normal when they are finished, but we all know these will prove insufficient when the time comes. The population of this area does not wish to be guinea pigs for a large corporation that, quite frankly, only cares about money. At one of the meetings, someone in favor of the project said, " Well, this isn't Yellowstone." Well, maybe this area isn't much to this individual who lives in the city, but it is "OUR" Yellowstone. If you break it down, there are people from outside our community promising wealth to a few individuals. In contrast, the rest of the community is negatively impacted by property devaluation and ecological impact, all to ship the product to be used elsewhere.

I'm sure you would not tolerate someone coming into your backyard, making it not enjoyable to use, and have your home devalued so that a neighbor three blocks away could benefit. You would not tolerate that; we are not okay with it either.

There are plenty of places in the United States where solar panels make sense, but our populated

area and farmland (kind of difficult to eat solar) are not one of them.

The vast majority of people for this project either do not live in this part of the county, are planning on making big bucks off of the project, or are from out of town. I ask you not to allow the solar Birch project to come to fruition. This project is wrong on many levels, and I hope you can see this. Time and time again, in the history of this nation, we can document where people with money or wealthy corporations have railroaded the average individual. I am asking you and the Ohio Power Siting Board not to allow this project to proceed. Thank you for your time and consideration

Klayton Hilleary
Auglaize County Ohio

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Summary: Public Comment of Klayton Hilleary, via website, electronically filed by
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