

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 20-1605-EL-BGN  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 28, 2022 3:20:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [Matt Huffman - 9.27.22.pdf](#)

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**Matt Huffman**  
Senate President  
  
Statehouse  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**To:** Ohio Power Siting Board  
**From:** Senator Matt Huffman  
**Date:** September 27, 2022

**Re:** **20-1605-EL-BGN: Birch Solar 1**

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To Whom It May Concern:

As the State Senator for Ohio's 12<sup>th</sup> Senate District, I write to follow up on my letters of October 2021 and May 2022, and to respond to recent comments filed by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

While I appreciate the Ohio Chamber taking an interest in the affairs of West Central Ohio residents, I strongly disagree with their conclusion that Birch Solar will serve the public interest of the individuals who will actually be impacted by the project. Having met with both residents and local officials in my district, I am confident that this project will not serve the public interest as required by OPSB.

It is disappointing that the Chamber has chosen to side with out-of-country rent-seekers over the Ohioans who would be impacted by this project. As noted in my letter earlier this year, the Shawnee Township Trustees, the Allen County Commissioners, the Allen County Auditor, the Allen County Treasurer, and the Allen County Engineer have all expressed concern or opposition to this project. I have also heard from many individual constituents who do not want to see this project go forward. It is unclear to me what further evidence is needed to indicate that a project is not in the public interest.

While the Chamber unfortunately dismisses these concerns as founded on "hyperbole and allegations," I believe that local officials elected by their neighbors, rather than Columbus-based interest groups, are in the best position to determine what is best for their communities. After all – they are the ones who are actually living in the impacted community.

I appreciate the Ohio Chamber's input on matters of statewide policy, but I believe that local elected officials and residents are the ones who should make decisions for their communities. I remain opposed to the Birch Solar 1 project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Huffman". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and "H".

Matt Huffman  
Senate President  
State Senator, 12<sup>th</sup> District

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