

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Birch Solar Project

Being a landowner, most people just assume that it was a monetary motivation to go with a solar company but, we have been passing up projects like this and wind turbine projects for over 20 years. Therefore, nothing has come forward into the community before.

I had always thought our land would stay farmland but now that utilities are so close to the farm and building development encroaching out closer and closer someday the property will change. It strikes me odd when someone says, "I'd like to see it stays a farm forever." These same people don't take the time to realize their house was built on a former farmland.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s as oil fueled our nation our family signed on and had many oil wells on the property. As these resources moved elsewhere these wells were decommissioned and put back to farmland. Our focus has always been farming. In the last few years, the Green Energy has offered decent money for their projects and most people would've probably signed on a few years ago. The offers from other companies are still flowing in.

We have seen offers from so many companies for 20 years most of which we ignored. We were impressed with Lightsource BP as they stood out different from all the other companies. One large fact about Lightsource BP was their commitment to 30% Green Energy around the world as part of the company wide portfolio. We knew they were in it for the long term. It was the first company we saw that was going to do setbacks and landscape some areas. Having sheep and apiaries on the property and dress the project up to fit the community as Celina, Minster and Covington Ohio have done. They are proximity to town and do not stand out like other projects do.

Some people express concerned about the proposed Birch Solar Project not being far enough out in the country. Its proximity would be no different than the Refinery and Chemical plant in the area. They have much more potentially dangerous chemicals and still have an excellent Safety Record. and we were talking about a piece of glass out in the country.

Sometimes when I travel, I will stop and see a community that has the wind turbines or solar farms. I ask how it is going and every time I have been told it was very heated when it was first announced of the project. However, now 3 years later everything is back to normal. Many have not seen any significant change in property values. One realtor I have talked to informed me that there are a lot of people who do not want other people as neighbors and would rather have the Wind, Solar or Cemetery as their neighbors.

With new government regulation of the push towards Green Energy and so many car companies announcing plans to make most of their cars electric in just a few years, we need to be proactive and work to grow the electrical grid. Green Energy does mean jobs for our local area as many corporations are going to develop in states where Green Energy is available such as Intel and Amazon.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

10/20/2022 1:41:47 PM

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

Summary: Public Comment of Paul Neff, via website, electronically filed by
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing