

 **FILE**

21-1231-EL-BGN

My name is Jim Wolever and I live at 3364 County Road 12 in Rushcreek Township.

The area of eastern Logan County is a beautiful and unusual geological outlier formed when the Wisconsin Dunes split thousands of years ago, during the Pleistocene Era.

RECEIVED NEWSPAPER DIVISION

2022 DEC 16 AM 9:23

The staff report states that the 2 underlying geological structures of the project area are known to be susceptible to karst development, and further states that, "the applicant indicates there are some factors which indicate that the potential for karst formation cannot totally be ruled out for the site, but, overall karst potential for the site appears to be low." That's not very comforting!

PUCO

There is some anecdotal evidence.

Going north along County Road 12, from the intersection with State Rt 47, skirting the project boundary, you can find at least 6 artesian overflows, 3 of which are in use as private water sources.

Zane Caverns, about 2 miles west of the project boundary has 6 levels of caverns, 4 of which have been accessed and 2 of which are available for tours.

You might also ask one of your voting members if he has experience with a karst feature sink hole on his home property less than one mile from the project boundary. A fairly normal occurrence in this area.

These geological structures and local headwater sources for several river systems at least brings to question the potential environmental impact. If any of the 103,000 pilings driven 15 feet into the ground hit these very prevalent artesian sources, the ironic name Fountain Point could be truly demonstrated.

This industrial scale project contradicts both Ohio's Farmland Preservation Policy enacted in 1997, and the 2007 Logan County Comprehensive Plan, Section 4.8.

44% of Ohio's farmland is identified as Prime soils. If you overlay a map showing the distribution of Ohio's prime soils, it is unbelievable that over 90% of the solar projects approved or being considered in Ohio are located in areas recognized as Prime farmland by the U.S.D.A. It is shocking to me that anyone could feel this satisfies your judgement criteria?

Fountain Point is entirely on Prime farmland and is designated U-1 in the Logan County's comprehensive plan.

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.  
Technician EC Date Processed 12/16/2022

The staff reports 369 public comments. Staff recommends the Board find that the public input received for the project represents varied interests, rather than a prominent, compelling, one-sided opposition.

My rough examination of those comments appears that: 27 were by elected officials not considered participants in the case, 4 were petitions, and the remaining 338 were general entries.

Regarding elected officials, 4 were in support, or 15%. 2 of these comments were general support for solar development by 2 county commissioners in November, 2021, before the Fountain Point application had been submitted to the OPSB. 13 days after the first public meeting revealed this project to the county, both commissioners entered letters of opposition rescinding their previous positions and both later voted to restrict the county under SB 52, voted to enter this case as interveners, and voted to enter an additional board letter to reinforce that opposition.

One of the other 2 was unsigned and not an item that was ever brought to a vote before the village of West Mansfield, the supposed author. So, we are down to the one specifically named in the staff report, Bokescreek trustee Larry Mouser.

In opposition, we have 3 state level officials, and 39 township trustees from 13 townships in Logan County, for a total of 42 to 1, 98% opposition by elected officials. Plus, the interventions by the Logan County Commissioners and the Rushcreek Township Trustees, the only 2 governmental bodies legally eligible to enter into the case.

Seems quite compelling to me!

The petition supporting the project, which the staff report indicated contained "hundreds of signatures" in fact contained 219 signatures. So technically correct.

The 3 petitions in opposition contained 833 signatures or 79.2% of the petition signatures. I certainly feel this is prominent and compelling and I consider 8 to 1 very one-sided.

As a side note, one of those petitions had 119 signatures from Bokescreek Township, specifically requesting your board to consider their action as a replacement for their elected body, since that body was legally not able to represent their constituents due to conflict-of-interest issues. So much for the one elected official so prominently identified in the staff report.

Of the remaining 338 general entries, 45 were in support of the project.

Among the 293 opposition entries, there were three entrees that contained individual letters signed by local residents at 4<sup>th</sup> of July events in Bokescreek - 203, Rushcreek - 254, and during the Logan County Fair - 280. The total of those three represents 737 individual letters of opposition.

In total, there were 1027 individual letters of opposition vs 45 letters in support. Fully 96% of the letters submitted were in opposition to the project. I don't know the staff's definition, but I would certainly consider that prominent, compelling, and one-sided.

In summary:

Environmental can be debated, until something bad happens

Continued agricultural viability is obviously in jeopardy and certainly violates land use designations.

But the prominent, compelling, and one-sided opposition demonstrates clearly that this project does **NOT** satisfy the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

I would ask that you demonstrate the integrity of your board, follow your judgement criteria, and stand behind the people of our community by denying this project. We have to live with the immediate impact of your decision, but it defines your identity and your legacy.

Thank you



# Power Siting Solar Case Status

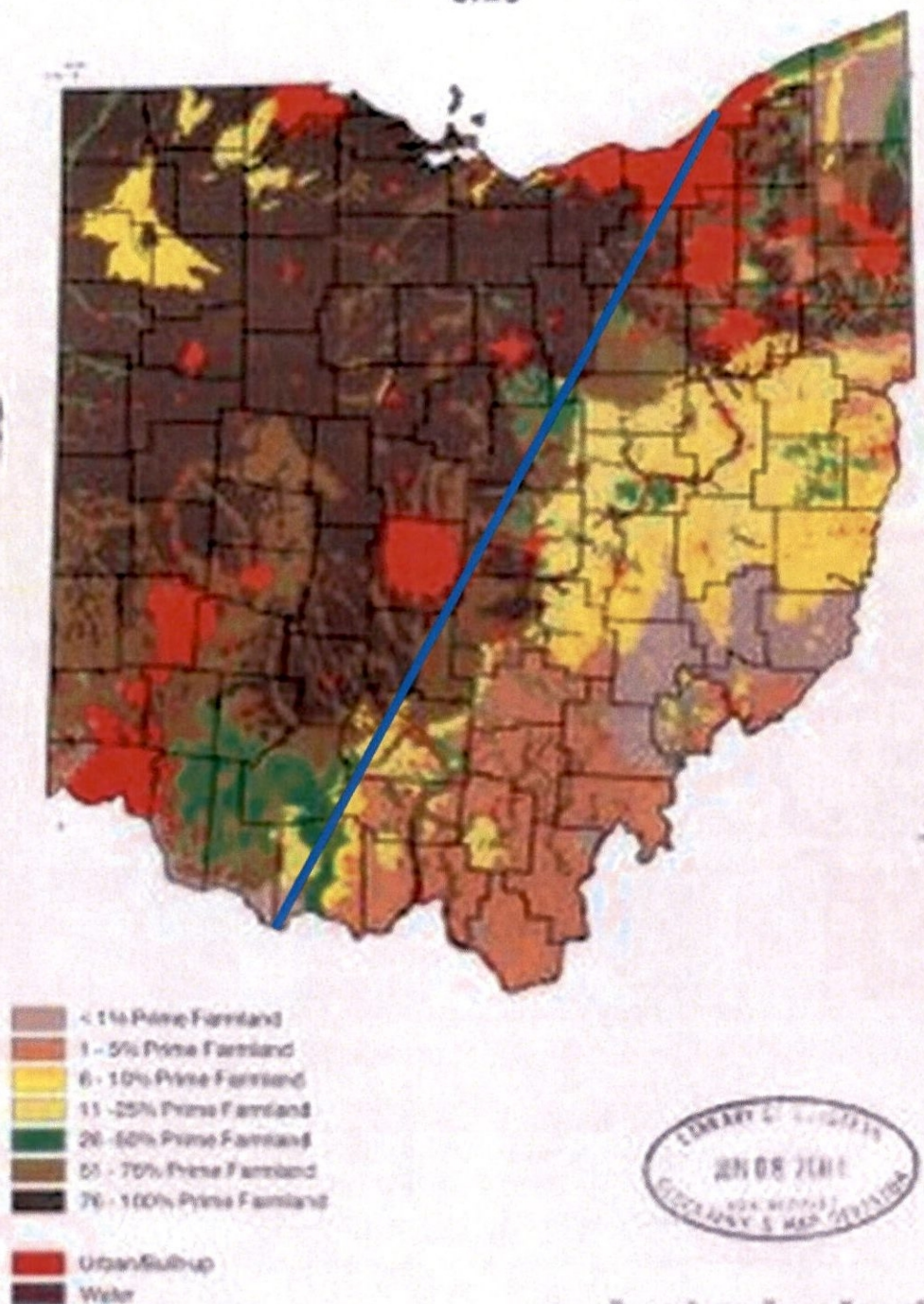
As of 3/18/2022



Project locations are provided by applicants. Case and construction status is determined by the case filings. The nameplate capacity shown is the maximum capacity in megawatts (MW) that could be built based on the number of approved photovoltaic panels and the highest nameplate capacity of the approved panel models. The estimated project size is shown in acres. Pre-Application project locations, capacity, and acreage may be approximated. MW and acreage totals in the legend represent the entire State of Ohio.

\*Project application contains a battery storage component.

**PRIME FARMLAND DISTRIBUTION  
OHIO**

[illegible]

© 2006 The Authors  
Journal compilation © 2006 Blackwell Publishing Ltd

G40H.J15 1927.45