

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE:)
) Case No.
Application of Fountain) 21-1231-EL-BGN
Point Solar Energy, LLC)

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PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD
Wednesday, December 14, 2022

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Public Hearing Before the Ohio Power Siting Board,
taken before me, the undersigned, Lorraine A. Litvin,
a Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, at
Benjamin Logan High School Auditoreum, 6609 OH-47
Bellefontaine, Ohio, commencing at 5:00 p.m. the day
and date above set forth.

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 On Behalf of the Public Utilities
3 Commission:

4 Isabel Marcelletti, Esq.
5 Greta See, Esq.
6 Ohio Public Utilities Commission
7 180 East Broad Street
8 Columbus, Ohio 43215
9 greta.see@puc.state.oh.us
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11 On Behalf of the Applicant:

12 Christine Pirik, Esq.
13 Dickinson Wright, PLLC
14 180 East Broad Street, Suite 3400
15 Columbus, Ohio 43215
16 cpirik@dickinson-wright.com

17 On Behalf of Rushcreek Township Board of
18 Trustees:

19 Breanne Parcels, Esq.
20 Assistant Prosecutor
21 Logan County Prosecutor's Office
22 117 East Columbus Avenue, Suite 200
23 Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311
24 Bparcels@logancountyohio.gov

25 Also Present:

Michael Yoder
Ad-hoc Board Member Oak Creek Township

Jeffrey Spencer
Ad-hoc Board Member Rushcreek Township

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1 MS. MARCELLETTI: Good evening.
2 The Ohio Power Siting Board has
3 scheduled for public hearing at this
4 time and place, Case Number
5 21-1231-EL-BGN which is captioned In
6 the Matter of the Application of
7 Fountain Point Solar Energy, LLC for
8 certificate of environmental
9 compatibility and at public need.

10 My name is Isabel Marcelletti.
11 With me is Ms. Greta See. Together we
12 are the attorneys in the legal
13 department assigned to hear this case.

14 The passage of Senate Bill 52
15 provides new opportunities for county
16 commissioners and township trustees to
17 participate in the siting of solar
18 projects in their community.

19 County commissioners may choose
20 one commissioner or a designee to serve
21 as an ad-hoc board member. In
22 addition, township trustees may choose
23 one trustee or a designee to serve as
24 their ad-hoc board member
25 representative.

1 The Board of Logan County
2 Commissioners appointed designee
3 Michael Yoder, and the Board of
4 Trustees of Oak Creek and Rushcreek
5 Townships appointed trustee Jeff
6 Spencer as the ad-hoc board members for
7 this project. Both join us this
8 evening.

9 Mr. Yoder is sitting here to our
10 left. Mr. Yoder, would you like to
11 waive to the crowd?

12 Trustee Spencer, would you stand
13 so that folks in the crowd can see
14 where you are. Thank you.

15 There are also staff members from
16 the board assisting us with the hearing
17 tonight. There in the back corner,
18 staff, would you raise your hand?
19 Thank you. You likely passed them on
20 your way in this evening but they are
21 also wearing PUCO/OPSB badges. They
22 are available if you have questions
23 concerning the board's process, if you
24 need assistance in accessing any of the
25 documents submitted in this case, or if

1 you just have general questions about
2 the hearing tonight.

3 At this time I would like to take
4 appearances on behalf of the parties.

5 MS. PIRIK: Thank you, Your Honor.
6 On behalf of the applicant Fountain
7 Point Solar, the law firm of Dickinson
8 Wright, I'm Christine Pirik, and
9 Matthew McDonnell, 180 East Broad
10 Stree0t, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

11 MS. MARCELLETTI: Thank you. Do
12 we have counsel for Logan County Board
13 of Commissioners? The Rushcreek
14 Township?

15 MS. PARCELS: On behalf of
16 Rushcreek Township Board of Trustees,
17 Breanne Parcels, Assistant Logan County
18 Prosecutor, 117 East Columbus Avenue,
19 Bellefontaine, Ohio, 43111.

20 MS. MARCELLETTI: Thank you. The
21 Ohio Farm Bureau Federation? Citizens
22 Against Fountain Point, LLC?

23 We also have a number of
24 individuals who have intervened and
25 are now parties to the case. Those

1 include Kara Slonecker, Paul Schaller,
2 Jeny Hammer, Jocelyn Kavanagh, Greg
3 Berillion, Jim Culp, Alyssa Rice, Cliff
4 Conkleton, Anthony Congossi.

5 Do we have counsel for these
6 parties here this evening?

7 The subject of today's hearing is
8 an application filed by Fountain Point
9 for the purpose of constructing a solar
10 powered and electric generation
11 facility of up to 280 megawatts in
12 Logan County.

13 The application was filed on June
14 10, 2022 and was amended on August
15 23rd, 2022. The board's staff filed a
16 report of investigation on November
17 29th, 2022 and this report is a
18 recommendation of the board's staff and
19 does not necessarily reflect what the
20 board's final determination in this
21 case will be.

22 The purpose of this evening's
23 public hearing is to receive testimony
24 regarding the application from persons
25 in the local community who are affected

1 by the proposed project.

2 Tonight's public hearing will not
3 be a question/answer session but rather
4 an opportunity for you to let the board
5 know what you think about the proposed
6 project. Tonight's public hearing to
7 only one aspect of the process in this
8 case.

9 An evidentiary hearing is
10 scheduled to commence on January 23rd,
11 2023 at the board's offices in
12 Columbus.

13 The purpose of the evidentiary
14 hearing is for the parties and the
15 board's staff to provide testimony and
16 other evidence regarding the project.

17 For those of you here tonight who
18 are parties to the case, the
19 evidentiary hearing will be your
20 opportunity to be heard. However, with
21 that being said if you are a party to
22 the case and would like to testify
23 tonight, you may do so.

24 If you are a party to the case, we
25 ask that you keep your comments very

1 brief and hold your comments until the
2 end so that all non parties have an
3 opportunity to testify first.

4 Additionally, if you are a party
5 to the case and are represented by an
6 attorney, you may wish to consult with
7 your attorney before making any
8 statements tonight.

9 Tonight's hearing is being
10 transcribed by a court reporter. If
11 you plan to testify, please speak
12 clearly so that she may hear you and
13 can accurately reflect your comments on
14 the record. Also if you have prepared
15 a written statement, it would be
16 helpful if you provide a copy to the
17 court reporter for reference to ensure
18 our transcript is accurate.

19 Once I wrap up with my
20 introduction, we will begin by inviting
21 individuals on the sign-in sheet to
22 speak about the proposed project. Each
23 person who signed up to testify will be
24 permitted to speak once about the
25 project.

1 Before you present your testimony
2 we will ask you to take an oath or
3 affirmation that what you are about to
4 say is the truth. We also be will be
5 asking for your name and address for
6 the record. You will then provide your
7 thoughts on the proposed project.

8 Counsel for the parties to the
9 case will be permitted to ask you
10 questions about your statement. Any
11 counsel that wishes to pursue
12 cross-examination must respond or we
13 will presume there is no
14 cross-examination.

15 The testimony that you provide
16 tonight will be considered part of the
17 official record in this case and it
18 will be reviewed by the board before a
19 final decision is made on the
20 application.

21 Just a few other notes. If you
22 decide that you do not want to testify
23 when we read your name from the sign-in
24 sheet, you can pass to the next
25 witness. If you decide that you prefer

1 to file written comments, the board
2 staff can answer your questions about
3 how to do that.

4 Also, once you're finished
5 testifying or if you're just here to
6 observe, you may leave the hearing any
7 time you wish tonight.

8 If your name is called and you are
9 a party to the case, please state that
10 when your name is called and you will
11 have the opportunity to testify at the
12 end tonight.

13 The board appreciates your
14 participation in tonight's hearing and
15 we want everyone who assigned up to
16 testify to have the opportunity to do
17 so. For that reason, please keep your
18 statements to a reasonable length of no
19 more than 5 minutes. I will be holding
20 up a sign when you have 30 seconds left
21 to provide comments and we will also
22 let you know when your time is up.

23 Again, we set these time limits so
24 everyone has the opportunity to speak.

25 If you have additional comments

1 but you run out of time, you may file
2 written ones in our case docket.

3 I have just one more housekeeping
4 thing. We will be having folks next to
5 the podium the sitting so it will be
6 easy to streamline tonight's hearing.

7 At this time we will begin with
8 the testimony.

9 MS. SEE: The first witness on the
10 list this evening is Rhonda Shelton.
11 The next witness is Kim Sunderland.

12 Ms. Sunderland, if you can step
13 down in front and sit at the seat next
14 to the podium.

15 Ms. Shelton, raise your right
16 hand.

17 RHONDA SHELTON

18 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
19 tell the truth, testified as follows:

20 MS. SEE: Please provide your name
21 and address.

22 MS. SHELTON: Rhonda Shelton, 286
23 East State Street, West Mansfield,
24 Ohio.

25 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in

1 the project area?

2 MS. SHELTON: I do.

3 MS. SEE: Are you a member of
4 Citizens Against -- are you an
5 intervenor in the case?

6 MS. SHELTON: No.

7 MS. SEE: Please go ahead with
8 your testimony.

9 MS. SHELTON: Just from what I
10 have seen and looked into, they are
11 doing line schedulization at these
12 locations. This land will never be
13 tillable again for farming use. In the
14 future that's going to be a waste land
15 for our grandchildren and great
16 grandchildren.

17 If they try to remove these, this
18 land is going to be good for nothing
19 but construction from here on out.

20 MS. SEE: Does that conclude your
21 testimony, ma'am?

22 MS. SHELTON: Yes.

23 MS. SEE: Any cross-examination
24 for this witness?

25 Thank you very much.

1 Ms. Sunderland, you will be
2 offering testimony next. Come forward,
3 Ms. Kim Kerns.

4 Ms. Sunderland, raise your right
5 hand.

6 KIM SUNDERLAND

7 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
8 tell the truth, testified as follows:

9 MS. SEE: Please state and spell
10 your name for the record.

11 MS. SUNDERLAND: Kim Sunderland,
12 S-U-N-D-E-R-L-A-N-D.

13 MS. SEE: Are you an intervenor in
14 this proceeding?

15 MS. SUNDERLAND: No, ma'am.

16 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
17 the project area?

18 MS. SUNDERLAND: I own a business
19 in the project area.

20 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
21 your testimony.

22 MS. SUNDERLAND: Okay. I grew up
23 in Union County. My dad was a farmer.
24 To say it pains me to see so much farm
25 land being taken out of production is

1 an understatement.

2 I recently drove from
3 Bellefontaine to Marysville and saw
4 North Union County and I nearly got
5 sick to my stomach to see how much farm
6 land, good rich, soil farm land is
7 being taken out up by solar.

8 So, you mentioned public need. My
9 question is how would this benefit our
10 community? What do we need here,
11 right?

12 So, think about this: According
13 to the UN, 9 million people starve to
14 death each year globally. 9 million.
15 Actually, a little more than 9 million.

16 Now, we're worried about climate
17 change. How many people die each year
18 from extreme temperatures? That's
19 about 4.6 million. Of that, 480,000
20 die due to extreme heat. The rest die,
21 the 4 -- a little over 4 million, die
22 from extreme cold.

23 My point in this is, first of all,
24 more people die of starvation than die
25 from extreme heat. Very few die from

1 extreme heat.

2 It seems to me that Logan County
3 residents need good stable reliable
4 electricity. Where is the electricity
5 going to go for the Fountain solar
6 panels? It's not going to benefit us.

7 What would benefit us the most is
8 to keep our current stable, reliable
9 electricity and gas sources and
10 continue farming, continue feeding the
11 world.

12 One more thing. This is called a
13 happy light. It's a full spectrum
14 light. I have to sit in front of this
15 in the winter here so I don't get
16 seasonal affective disorder, okay, and
17 I don't know about you guys but have
18 you noticed how gray it's been and how
19 gray it gets here in Ohio, and with the
20 snow, how much power are these solar
21 panels going to produce? They're --
22 they're just -- in my opinion, this is
23 nothing more than a money grabbing,
24 land grabbing dollar.

25 Save our farms.

1 MS. SEE: Just a moment. Is there
2 any cross for this witness?

3 MS. PARCELS: No.

4 MS. SEE: Thank you very much.

5 MS. SUNDERLAND: Thank you.

6 Rhonda Lane? Ms. Lane, you can
7 take a seat just to the side of the
8 podium.

9 Ms. Kerns, please raise your right
10 hand.

11 KIM KERNS

12 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
13 tell the truth, testified as follows:

14 MS. SEE: Please state and spell
15 your name for the record.

16 MS. KERNS: Kim Kerns, K-E-R-N-S.

17 MS. SEE: Provide us your address.

18 MS. KERNS: 2928 County Road 8,
19 West Mansfield.

20 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
21 the project area?

22 MS. KERNS: Yes, I do.

23 MS. SEE: Okay. Are you a member
24 of the -- are you an intervenor in this
25 case?

1 MS. KERNS: No, I am not.

2 MS. SEE: Please go ahead with
3 your testimony.

4 MS. KERNS: Thank you. Being a
5 former mayor of West Mansfield, I am
6 here to speak for myself, my family,
7 and several residents.

8 I spoken with the facts that all
9 I'm hearing is predictions. I would
10 like to hear some facts on what this
11 project is. We can predict a lot of
12 things but we need today so that's why
13 I'm here to fight for what I believe
14 in, that Logan County does not need
15 solar power.

16 On August 11, 2022 Logan County
17 Commissioners voted to restrict 16
18 townships. If Fountain Point had not
19 been grandfathered in, it too would
20 have been restricted.

21 There have been over a thousand
22 letters of opposition presented,
23 resolutions from county commissioners,
24 and letters from state representatives,
25 and letters from Ohio state senators,

1 throughout our county. This speaks
2 volumes. Money talks. I won't go
3 there.

4 I know the community can use it.
5 Schools can use it. Churches need it.
6 Law enforcement can use it. However, I
7 cannot fight the funds. I will fight
8 100 percent for the future of my
9 children and grandchildren. Money is
10 the root of all evil. They buy their
11 way in and cash their way out. It's
12 sad what is happening to our Logan
13 County land.

14 Can I be assured that there will
15 be no impact to residential properties?
16 Can I be assured that there will be no
17 toxins released in our grounds and
18 water? Can I be assured that as of
19 today there is a place for proper
20 disposal? Can I be assured that there
21 will be electromagnetic waves off the
22 panels will not affect the health of
23 myself and my family, because when I
24 look around at the other projects that
25 have been done, what I see and what you

1 do are not the same.

2 Again, I will not argue money,
3 just what is right and, it is not right
4 to have industrial solar in Logan
5 County and this project does not meet
6 my interests.

7 God does not want a perfect heart.
8 He wants an honest heart. Let's do the
9 honest thing and please deny Fountain
10 Point. Thank you for your time.

11 MS. SEE: Any cross-examination?

12 MS. PARCELS: No.

13 MS. SEE: Brian Lee, if you can
14 come forward to be ready to be the next
15 witness.

16 Ms. Lane, raise your right hand.

17 RHONDA LANE

18 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
19 tell the truth, testified as follows:

20 MS. SEE: Please state and spell
21 your name for the record.

22 MS. LANE: Rhonda Lane, L-A-N-E.

23 MS. SEE: Provide your address.

24 MS. LANE: 2998 County Road 12,
25 Bellefontaine, Ohio.

1 MS. SEE: Are you an intervenor in
2 this procedure?

3 MS. LANE: No, ma'am.

4 MS. SEE: Go ahead.

5 MS. LANE: Good evening. Rhonda
6 Lane. I have lived in Rush Creek
7 Township for the past 23 years. My
8 whole life I have always lives in a
9 rural community. Like many others here
10 too, I have done much research.
11 Honestly, I do not like what I have
12 read. Tonight, though, I feel a full
13 to speak from my heart.

14 From the time I was a little girl
15 I traveled these roads with my dad,
16 going to the livestock sale in Rush
17 Creek County and numerous other
18 locations throughout Ohio.

19 As years passed by, I dreamed of
20 living here in the beautiful rolling
21 hills of Logan County. That dream
22 finally came true in November of 1999
23 when my husband and I bought our home
24 on County Road 12.

25 We love our peaceful neighborhood

1 and our neighbor and our beautiful
2 property. Many of our neighbors have
3 lived here for 2, 3, and even 4-year
4 your generations. None of us, by
5 purchasing or passing on to our
6 children, would have ever expected to
7 be living in an industrial solar
8 complex area let alone anything
9 industrial period.

10 While I am not against solar, if
11 you want it personal use, that's fine
12 However, what I am against is taking up
13 our fertile farm land for industrial
14 solar use.

15 If I had wanted -- I'm sorry -- to
16 raise my family within an industrial
17 area of any type, there wouldn't have
18 been a purchase of land so far out in
19 the countryside.

20 I would have moved closer to town
21 or in town, to say the least, and we
22 would have expected an expansion of
23 solar.

24 Many in the past have spoken on
25 property owners' rights. Well, what

1 about our adjacent or close proximity
2 proper property owners' rights? Do we
3 not also have them? Yes, we do.

4 We have the right to peaceful
5 living, not the humming of these
6 substations that are said to be no
7 louder than a refrigerator running.
8 That, in fact, is not true. I have
9 seen friend's recordings of these
10 sounds and they are nowhere near the
11 level of a refrigerator running in the
12 kitchen.

13 We don't need the increase in
14 traffic, the tearing up of our roads,
15 not the destruction of our viable,
16 fertile farmland, not the destruction
17 and the beauty Logan County, not the
18 destruction of our property use, not
19 the destruction of the wildlife
20 patterns that affect their livelihood
21 and also the livelihood of our hunters
22 who also do so to put food on the
23 tables.

24 You can do all the research in the
25 world, but if you think the natural

1 balance of things will not be impacted
2 by these industrial solar complexes,
3 you're all fools with no common sense.
4 This is not the legacy I personally
5 want it leave my children and
6 grandchildren. For this reason, I
7 strongly ask you to deny the Fountain
8 Point Project and any others in our
9 county going forward.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 MS. SEE: Any cross?

12 Thank you very much.

13 Ruth -- let me apologize now.

14 Ruth Tetirick, you can step down and be
15 ready to offer your testimony.

16 Mr. Lane, raise your right hand.

17 BRIAN LANE

18 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
19 tell the truth, testified as follows:

20 MS. SEE: State and spell your
21 name for the record and give us your
22 address.

23 MR. LANE: Brian Lane, 2998 County
24 Road 12, Bellefontaine, Ohio.

25 MS. SEE: And are you an

1 intervenor in this proceeding?

2 MR. LANE: No.

3 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
4 the project area?

5 MR. LANE: Near it.

6 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
7 testimony.

8 MR. LANE: Good evening. My name
9 is Brian Lane. I would like to thank
10 you all for allowing us to speak
11 tonight.

12 I was born in Bellefontaine. I
13 grew up here as a kid, East Liberty,
14 West Mansfield. I have a long history
15 in this small town.

16 In 1999 me and my wife bought 16
17 acres on County Road 12, a nice private
18 piece of land way back off the road.

19 Logan County is known for its
20 rolling hills and rich farmland. I
21 really can't see why anyone would want
22 to put these solar panels in such a
23 beautiful countryside like Logan
24 County. They bring absolutely nothing
25 to this county and the community.

1 There's absolutely no benefit to any of
2 us.

3 If you put this land in the solar
4 farms for 30 years, 30-plus years, that
5 land is not going to be worked, tilled,
6 planted, or anything in that amount of
7 time. That land will become hard.
8 Rain water will not absorb into that
9 ground and the land will have more
10 run-off which over time will add even
11 more flooding than we already have now.

12 I have seen these solar panels
13 firsthand, the solar farms. They're
14 one big, black ugly field. Disgusting.
15 It's not what I want to see while I'm
16 traveling down the road, I can tell you
17 that.

18 Is this really what you want to
19 leave your children and grandkids? I'm
20 saying that because they're the ones
21 that's going to have to clean this mess
22 up when it's over with, when it runs
23 its course.

24 They have the technology to put
25 solar panels in glass windows and on

1 buildings and on top of businesses.
2 Why aren't we using that instead of
3 destroying our rich farmland and our
4 beautiful countryside? It makes
5 absolutely no sense to me.

6 Let me ask you a question. Do you
7 think about -- think about it for a
8 while. If you put solar farms on all
9 our farmland, we are we going to put
10 all of our crops, our grain, our hay to
11 feed our cattle. What are you going to
12 do, rely on some greenhouse for your
13 food? I don't think so.

14 We need to preserve our farm
15 ground. That's one thing that's not
16 going to be re-made. You abuse it and
17 it's gone for good.

18 They say you can go in and clean
19 this up. No, I don't think so. It's
20 wasteland after this.

21 I am not saying solar is bad for
22 your personal use. If a homeowner
23 wants to put solar panels on their
24 house, that's fine. I am not opposed
25 to that.

1 These solar farms, I do have a
2 problem with. Number one, it's not
3 benefiting any of us. We're not even
4 getting any of the electricity this
5 stuff is generating. They're sending
6 it to these big cities. Who knows?
7 They're probably sending it overseas.

8 It really takes too much ground to
9 use solar and it will never meet the
10 demands of this country anyhow. It's
11 just not worth it.

12 With that, I'm asking you to deny
13 this project from going forward. Thank
14 you.

15 MS. SEE: Any cross-examination
16 for the witness?

17 Thank you very much.

18 Christina Daniels, come up next to
19 offer testimony.

20 Ms. Tetirick?

21 MS. Tetirick: Yes.

22 MS. SEE: Raise your right hand.

23 RUTH Tetirick

24 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
25 tell the truth, testified as follows:

1 MS. SEE: Please state and spell
2 your name for the record.

3 MS. TETIRICK: My name is Ruth
4 Tetirick, T-E-T-I-R-I-C-K, 7101 County
5 Road 2 in Zanesfield, Ohio, 43360.

6 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
7 case?

8 MS. TETIRICK: I am not.

9 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
10 the project area?

11 MS. TETIRICK: I live nearby.

12 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
13 testimony.

14 MS. TETIRICK: No matter which
15 side of this issue you stand on, for or
16 against, there is a common denominator,
17 a fact that cannot be denied. The
18 construction of this facility, if
19 approved, will drastically change not
20 only the appearance of the landscape
21 but also the ecosystem that currently
22 exists on this acreage.

23 Building this solar center will
24 alter the balance of the ecosystem both
25 below and above the ground. It is

1 estimated that 31 miles of buried
2 cable, under 3,000 steel tiles, 675,000
3 miles of crystal and solar panels will
4 be installed, 18 miles of internal
5 access roads will be constructed, a
6 fence up to 7 feet in height will
7 secure the perimeter of the acreage of
8 this proposed project.

9 Local County's economy is agrarian
10 based. The farm land here is composed
11 of what the Department of Agriculture
12 designates as prime soils, the best,
13 most productive and rarest of topsoils
14 on the planet conducive to the
15 production of food. This is a fact.

16 The topsoil from Logan County is
17 a valuable, limited resource. Make no
18 mistake: Soil is a living thing. The
19 topsoil within the confines of this
20 proposed project will literally decide
21 die.

22 Thousands of acres with A-1
23 farmland being taken out of production
24 here and statewide is irresponsible and
25 cannot be considered as good

1 stewardship.

2 Flat, clear farmland that is near
3 existing transmission infrastructure is
4 being targeted for utility scale and
5 development at an alarming rate,
6 particularly here in Ohio.

7 Invenergy operates other solar
8 centers in various states of
9 development in Union and Hardin
10 counties which share borders with ours.

11 The scope and rapidity of this
12 corporation's land graph is mind
13 boggling.

14 A perusal of the Logan County
15 Comprehensive Plan adopted in August of
16 2007 clearly promotes the preservation
17 and protection of agricultural land as
18 a stated goal.

19 The habitat for wildlife, flora,
20 and insects will be compromised,
21 negatively impacted, and significantly
22 reduced. The farm reaching Mill Creek
23 and Bokescreek watersheds originate in
24 close proximity to this and several
25 other projects.

1 The head waters of the Great
2 Miami, the Scioto, and the Mad River
3 all begin here. The Mad River, by the
4 way, is the largest cold water fishery
5 in Ohio and one of the few where the
6 natural ground travel.

7 Solar rays are in the systems.
8 This means their energy production is
9 dependent on weather conditions. They
10 cannot be used at night, and we do not
11 have the technology to store solar
12 energy for future on-demand use.

13 There was no project anywhere on
14 the planet that operates a solar
15 storage energy system.

16 Additionally, solar panels
17 generate at peak capacity of only about
18 20 percent of the time and actually
19 produce energy well under 50 percent of
20 the time. Subsequently, in today's
21 world, utility scale energy is
22 unreliable, inefficient, and expensive.

23 The mining operations of the solar
24 panel manufacturing process are harmful
25 to the environment. Used panels

1 contain toxins and silica byproducts
2 that are difficult to dispose of
3 safely.

4 Harvesting the heavy metals and
5 minerals and the manufacture of solar
6 panels is largely outsourced to China
7 and Asia. 80 percent of solar panels
8 are imported. This not only funds
9 their economies instead of ours,
10 dependency on outside sources for
11 materials can create energy-security
12 issues.

13 If I am not mistaken, the OPSB
14 today has denied very few, if any,
15 utility scale solar proposals that have
16 come to a vote before the board. 16 or
17 townships are designated as
18 restricted zones often as to utility
19 scale renewal development.

20 A huge number of residents here in
21 Logan County from all walks of life do
22 not support the approval of this
23 project.

24 It has become obvious to me that
25 the driving forces behind the proposed

1 Fountain Point Solar Energy Project are
2 money first and foremost and politics.
3 There's a powerful public/private
4 partnership at work here attempting to
5 impose on residents of Logan County not
6 because it satisfies public interest,
7 convenience, and necessity but because
8 it can.

9 Follow the money. It speaks
10 volumes via an unprecedented level of
11 government subsidies, the award of
12 these payments to private landowners
13 profits --

14 MS. SEE: Ms. Tetirick, you are
15 out of time. Wrap up.

16 MS. TETIRICK: Okay. May I
17 complete my statement by submitting the
18 rest to the public record?

19 MS. SEE: Yes. You can file
20 written comments in the record.

21 MS. TETIRICK: Hold on.

22 MS. SEE: Hold on. Just a second.
23 Any cross-examination?

24 Thank you very much.

25 Alyssa Rice, you are the next

1 individual on the list. However, as a
2 party we will ask that you testify
3 last.

4 Christina Daniel?

5 MS. DANIEL: Yes.

6 Mr. Mark Slonecker, be ready to
7 testify next please.

8 CHRISTINA DANIEL

9 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
10 tell the truth, testified as follows:

11 MS. SEE: Please state and spell
12 your name for the record and give us
13 your address.

14 MS. DANIEL: Christina Daniel,
15 C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-A, Daniel, D-A-N-I-E-L.
16 My address is 262 Lake Avenue, West
17 Mansfield, Ohio.

18 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
19 the project area?

20 MS. DANIEL: Yes.

21 MS. SEE: Are you a party to this
22 case?

23 MS. DANIEL: No.

24 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
25 your testimony.

1 MS. DANIEL: Hello. About 4
2 months ago my family made a
3 life-changing decision to move from the
4 suburbs of Marysville to the rural
5 countryside of West Mansfield. I am
6 now proud to call Logan County home.

7 We made the decision to move for
8 several reasons, one of which was to
9 provide our 4-year old daughter with a
10 quieter town, a space that allowed her
11 to run, dig in the dirt, play and
12 explore her backyard.

13 Now, our beautiful backyard, the
14 reason for which we purchased our home,
15 is set to be a solar farm, and I'm so
16 disappointed.

17 As a mother, educator, and county
18 resident, I'm strongly opposed to the
19 large industrial solar project being
20 proposed by Fountain Point.

21 I would like to see this proposed
22 project be terminated. There are so
23 many negative impacts, long and short
24 term, and this project will have our
25 community. As a county resident, I

1 have many concerns. Fountain Point
2 would greatly reduce the appeals of
3 this area. By moving forward with this
4 solar project, the houses in the area
5 would drastically lose value. This
6 area is beautiful for its farmland and
7 nature. This land does not need
8 industrial solar panels cluttering up
9 the area.

10 I am extremely disappointed that
11 this project was even brought up in the
12 first place and would be even more
13 disappointed if this moves forward.

14 I am opposed to the solar panels
15 that would mess up the community,
16 benefit a few at the expense of the
17 majority, and ruin farmland for the
18 benefit of corporate America located in
19 another area.

20 I pray you come to your senses and
21 reject the project. Please deny
22 Fountain Point for my daughter, for my
23 community. It's not what's best for
24 Logan County.

25 MS. SEE: Any cross?

1 MS. PARCELS: No.

2 MS. SEE: Thank you.

3 MS. DANIEL: Thank you.

4 MS. SEE: Christi Skidmore, you
5 can be ready to testify next.

6 Mr. Slonecker, raise your right
7 hand.

8 MARK SLONECKER

9 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
10 tell the truth, testified as follows:

11 MS. SEE: State and spell your
12 name and give us your address.

13 MR. SLONECKER: My name is Mark
14 Slonecker, M-A-R-K, S-L-O-N-E-C-K-E-R.
15 I live at 922 Township Road 132, West
16 Mansfield, Ohio.

17 MS. SEE: Are you a party to this
18 case?

19 MR. SLONECKER: I am not.

20 MS. SEE: Did I ask you, do you
21 live or work in the project area?

22 MR. SLONECKER: I was in the
23 original footprint of Perry Township
24 but now I'm just very close to it.

25 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with

1 your testimony.

2 MR. SLONECKER: Okay. Like I
3 said, I live in Perry Township.
4 According to the latest from Invenergy,
5 Perry is no longer in the footprint of
6 this project.

7 That doesn't decrease my
8 opposition to this project. The more I
9 research solar, the more questions I
10 have. Answers I can't readily find
11 without some sort of slant and more
12 questions than answers after reading
13 it.

14 An example is an article claiming
15 California achieved 99.87 percent
16 renewable energy. What did that mean?
17 Unfortunately, the article didn't
18 explain it very well but a lot of
19 people were proud of it.

20 I pulled another article from a
21 year earlier where they achieved 94
22 percent. It had some caveats. The
23 measurement was taken from their main
24 power grid and didn't include Los
25 Angeles, Sacramento, and several other

1 regions.

2 Also, the amount of time
3 percentage was achieve for was 4
4 seconds. It was in the spring when
5 demand is not high and sunshine is
6 plentiful.

7 Then the article went on to say
8 that it was impossible to measure the
9 actual amount renewables were
10 responsible for.

11 I don't question solar has some
12 effect, but at what cost? Here in
13 Ohio we're lucky if we get half as many
14 sunny days as California. Does that
15 mean the effect is going to be half as
16 effective? I have a lot of questions.

17 How much can individuals of our
18 community expect to save on our
19 electric bill if and when this is
20 installed? What guarantees do we have
21 that it won't go up?

22 The money the community and
23 landowners receive yearly from
24 Invenergy, where does it come from if
25 the company goes bankrupt? If

1 Invenergy sells their rights to this
2 project, what guarantees are there
3 they're the landowners of the
4 community? When the lease is over,
5 what does returning the land back to
6 agricultural use actually mean?

7 If this technology is so great,
8 why can't it stand on its own without
9 subsidies and fossil fuel back up, and
10 who guarantees my real estate value?

11 With all the increases in
12 renewable energy, why is the demand for
13 fossil fuels higher than ever? What
14 guarantees do we have that there won't
15 be black-outs?

16 I think most of you have heard the
17 phrase there's no such thing as a free
18 lunch; there are only trade-offs. Do
19 we really know what we're getting into?

20 Some of you might think you have
21 the answer to all these questions. I
22 think most of those answers will lead
23 to more questions. There's a lot of
24 gray areas.

25 We all want to live on a safer

1 planet but if the government can't
2 control spending, what leads you to
3 believe it can control this?

4 MS. SEE: Any cross?

5 MS. PARCELS: No.

6 MS. SEE: Thank you, sir.

7 Step forward, Ms. Skidmore.

8 Ken Rosebrook, Senior, can you
9 step forward to give your testimony
10 after this witness.

11 Ms. Skidmore, raise your right
12 hand.

13 CHRISTI SKIDMORE

14 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
15 tell the truth, testified as follows:

16 MS. SEE: State your name and
17 spell it for the record and give us
18 your address.

19 MS. SKIDMORE: Christi Skidmore,
20 S-k-i-d-m-o-r-e. I live at 400 Lake
21 Avenue, West Mansfield.

22 MS. SEE: Are you a party to this
23 case?

24 MS. SKIDMORE: No.

25 MS. SEE: Please go ahead with

1 your testimony.

2 MS. SKIDMORE: Okay. I am Christi
3 Skidmore and the proposed project
4 borders our home. We are located
5 within the corporation limit of West
6 Mansfield.

7 As a homeowner living by an
8 industrial solar plant has zero
9 benefits for the homeowners but carries
10 with it major concerns for our
11 well-being. Basically, we are being
12 sacrificed, sacrificing our way of life
13 we have worked hard for, possible
14 health issues, and so much more. And
15 for what? All for the sake of money,
16 big money.

17 We did our research, a lot of
18 research, and we see many disturbing
19 issues with the project.

20 They came into our community over
21 2 years ago very quietly and started
22 negotiations with the farmers
23 unbeknownst to the community promising
24 farmers big money. Many signed
25 confidential lease agreements at no

1 regard for their neighbors because,
2 again, money is more important.

3 They promised schools big money,
4 gaining their support. Again, money is
5 used to gain community approval. They
6 went to community officials promising
7 more enticing offers. Good neighbor
8 agreements were offered to some.
9 Again, money used to gain their
10 approval and stop resistance.

11 But did they all consider the
12 impact of industrial solar to the
13 residence living so close, how it would
14 change the landscape of Logan County
15 for 45 years or more, and consider the
16 headaches industrial solar in
17 commission for that long would bring?
18 No.

19 At every turn money has been used
20 to get people onboard to further their
21 agenda. Without the money being
22 offered, they wouldn't have a chance in
23 this county. And if what they offer
24 sounds too good to be true, then it
25 probably is, and that is definitely

1 what we found in our research.

2 Invenergy sold the Hardin County
3 project even before construction was
4 finished.

5 The Fountain Point project in all
6 property will be sold just like it was
7 in Hardin County. Then we would be at
8 the mercy of the new owners, new
9 regulations, more taxes, et cetera.

10 This project would have never
11 happened if it wasn't being so heavily
12 subsidized by the government with our
13 tax dollars. All for questionable
14 technology. We should all be
15 concerned. Industrial solar should not
16 be located by residential communities.

17 In summary, I'm looking at the big
18 picture and not just what the money
19 will bring. We stand to lose things
20 money can't replace from this project:
21 A future for our children, generational
22 farming, homeowners able to enjoy the
23 homes they love and have worked for all
24 their life without fears of solar
25 fires, toxic run-offs, health issues

1 and more.

2 This is no short-term commitment
3 for Logan County. It's 45 years, a
4 lifetime for me.

5 Please don't let the money be more
6 important than how it will affect
7 people's lives and our beautiful Logan
8 County.

9 Hundreds of letters from our
10 community have been sent to your board
11 and signed petitions submitted in
12 opposition of the project. State
13 representatives have written letters
14 against the project and commissioners
15 have stated their opposition also as
16 well as township trustees.

17 Please take our opposition into
18 consideration. We have done the
19 research and do not find it in the best
20 interest for Logan County. I urge you
21 to deny the Fountain Point project.

22 Thank you for your time.

23 MS. SEE: Okay. Cross?

24 Renee Rosebrook.

25 Mr. Rosebrook, please raise your

1 right hand.

2 KEN ROSEBROOK

3 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
4 tell the truth, testified as follows:

5 MS. SEE: Please state and spell
6 your name for the record.

7 MR. ROSEBROOK: Ken Rosebrook,
8 Senior. R-O-S-E-B-R-O-O-K. I reside
9 at 101 Township Road 132, West
10 Mansfield.

11 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
12 case?

13 MR. ROSEBROOK: No.

14 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
15 the project area?

16 MR. ROSEBROOK: No.

17 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
18 testimony.

19 MR. ROSEBROOK: Ken Rosebrook.
20 I'm a township trustee and I believe I
21 can speak on behalf of Perry Township
22 Trustees and a very large majority of
23 Logan County residents that oppose
24 industrial solar facilities being
25 installed on agricultural farmland.

1 However, we are not opposed to
2 residents that wish to install solar
3 panels on existing structure and use
4 them as alternative energy for personal
5 use providing that the property owner
6 meets all the zoning requirements that
7 are assigned by the township zoning
8 authority.

9 As a resident of Logan County and
10 elected township trustee, I am very
11 concerned that the proposed Fountain
12 Point project will be very negative
13 impact -- will have a very negative
14 impact on Logan County.

15 One of the concerns, amongst many,
16 is the natural spring water throughout
17 Logan County. During a meeting with
18 Invenergy on December 13, 2021
19 Mr. Daniel Vertucci explained that the
20 actual solar panels would be secured on
21 steel beams. The steel beams would be
22 driven into the ground approximately 15
23 feet, which was very -- which has a
24 very high potential of interfering with
25 the flow of natural spring water that

1 currently exists throughout Logan
2 County.

3 Therefore, if the proposed
4 Fountain Point Solar facility or any
5 future facilities are permitted to
6 construct an industrial solar facility
7 within Logan County it would have a
8 very high potential of disrupting flow
9 of the natural spring water or perhaps
10 have a very high potential of affecting
11 the water quality of the natural
12 springs that God has created, which
13 would be very detrimental to Perry and
14 the adjacent township residents.

15 Other concerns that area residents
16 have communicated that relate to the
17 Fountain Point project are the negative
18 impact on property value, the fact that
19 the solar panels being installed are
20 made in China, potential glare or
21 glint, as some say, from the solar
22 panels creating a safety concern during
23 peak periods of sunlight, and
24 potentially create unsafe travel
25 conditions at some of the intersections

1 that are located on state routes and
2 rural country and township roads if an
3 adequate setback isn't applied during
4 the installation process.

5 According to Ohio Power Siting
6 Board staff report of investigation,
7 369 documents have been filed in the
8 public comment section of the case
9 record in opposition of the project.
10 However, July 25, 2022 there was 737
11 opposition letters combined into 3
12 entries. Therefore, the total number
13 of oppositions should reflect 1,104.

14 The staff report also mentioned
15 that comments were filed in support --
16 comments were filed in support of the
17 project that included letters from area
18 residents and Bokescreek Township
19 trustee.

20 I discovered a statement from Ohio
21 Township News that stated townships
22 have not only survived the test of
23 time, that they have thrived.
24 Townships uniquely balance small
25 community living and the preservation

1 of farmland and industry and Ohio's
2 agricultural industry with positive
3 infrastructure advancements and
4 economic development. However,
5 townships were once viewed as temporary
6 government. However, townships of
7 today should be recognized as key
8 players in county governmental
9 discussions that effect our community.

10 In conclusion, as an elected
11 township trustee, I was sworn in and
12 took an oath, so help me God, to do
13 what's best for the residents that
14 reside within the community and make
15 the best decisions that effect the
16 largest majority of the residents and
17 not a select few that would seek
18 financial gain.

19 That's it for me.

20 MS. SEE: Any cross-examination?

21 MS. PARCELS: I have one question.
22 Breanne Parcels on behalf of Rushcreek
23 Township, in your role as trustee, if
24 you recall, when was Perry Township
25 notified that it was being removed from

1 the project area?

2 MR. ROSEBROOK: Perry Township is
3 removed from the project.

4 MS. PARCELS: Do you recall when
5 you were notified?

6 MR. ROSEBROOK: Not exactly. Yes,
7 I recall that that has been removed.
8 However, the lease holder still holds
9 the lease in Perry Township.

10 MS. PARCELS: Nothing further.

11 MS. SEE: Thank you very much.

12 MR. ROSEBROOK: Thank you. Steve
13 Jenkins, if you could step forward and
14 be prepared to offer testimony.

15 RENEE ROSEBROOK

16 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
17 tell the truth, testified as follows:

18 MS. SEE: State and spell your
19 name for the record and your address.

20 MS. ROSEBROOK: Renee Rosebrook,
21 R-O-S-E-B-R-O-O-K.

22 MS. SEE: What's your address?

23 MS. ROSEBROOK: 101 Township Road
24 132, West Mansfield, Ohio. We live
25 close to the project.

1 MS. SEE: Are you a party?

2 MS. ROSEBROOK: No.

3 MS. SEE: Go ahead, please.

4 MS. ROSEBROOK: My name is Renee
5 Rosebrook. All my life one of my
6 biggest fears has been public speaking.
7 Well, when something like industrial
8 solar is trying to invade your
9 community, you decide what is worse.
10 So here I am speaking. I just hope I
11 don't faint.

12 My speech will be short and
13 simple. I plan to tell you from my
14 heart what I believe and that -- how I
15 believe -- why I believe industrial
16 solar is wrong for our area.

17 It's a little bit about myself. I
18 have lived in this community for over
19 26 years. I love living in Logan
20 County. I was born and raised in Union
21 County, but a lot of my childhood
22 memories consist of visiting my family
23 here in Logan County, West Mansfield,
24 enjoying the West Mansfield
25 Conservation Club, Indian Lake, and

1 other parks in the area. The thought
2 that the Logan the Logan County
3 countryside is being filled with solar
4 panels instead of crops makes me sick
5 to my stomach, especially since all
6 know the power generated by these solar
7 panels will not stay local or possibly
8 not even in the State of Ohio. How
9 does anyone think that should be okay?

10 Why it's -- why is it okay to
11 destroy our countryside so someone in
12 another state can say they have clean
13 energy?

14 If you need a visual of how our
15 area will look in a year if the Ohio
16 Power Siting Board approves this
17 project, just drive to Hardin County or
18 even closer just eight miles away to
19 Treaty Line in Union County. It's that
20 close.

21 When is enough enough? I think
22 the tri-county area has too many
23 approved projects already. Please,
24 OPSB, stop with Logan County. Just
25 stop. Delay it. Allow the others to

1 go ahead and see what happens. I -- I
2 just -- why do we have to do this to
3 Logan County?

4 These industrial solar
5 corporations claim they want to be good
6 neighbors, but neither of the projects
7 I drove to all multiple times or drove
8 around in gave me a good feeling.

9 Speaking of good neighbors, if
10 these project are so great for the
11 community then why do these industrial
12 solar corporations need to pressure the
13 adjacent property owners to sign
14 good-neighbor agreements and offer them
15 money? They do that so they can
16 control that individual so they won't
17 speak up against the projects.

18 My husband and I choose to live in
19 the country. My husband and I choose
20 to live in the country, so we know
21 we're going to deal with mud on the
22 roads, chicken manure being applied in
23 fields, and maybe combines running all
24 night during harvest. We're okay with
25 that because that's agricultural.

1 Acres and acres of solar panels is not
2 agricultural. That's an industrial
3 field.

4 Personally I want to thank farmers
5 and land owners that did not sign up
6 with Invenergy or any other industrial
7 solar company. Honestly, I get how
8 these contracts would be very tempting
9 to sign. I was raised that if
10 something looks too good to be true, it
11 probably is.

12 In my opinion, what is offered by
13 these corporations is too good to be
14 true. It doesn't make sense how this
15 would be profitable in the long run.

16 We all know not -- we all know
17 this -- wait. We all know it is not
18 unless they continue to get government
19 funding.

20 What happens when the
21 administration changes in the White
22 House? Will these fields be full of
23 metal and glass panels that are doing
24 nothing because everything was put on
25 hold?

1 For 31 years I worked for a big
2 corporation that used lobbyist and
3 public relation firms to push their
4 corporate agenda. I understand how
5 this works.

6 Unfortunately, in the case of
7 Invenergy it's obvious they do not care
8 about this community. They may talk
9 the talk right now. There's a good
10 chance this project, if approved by the
11 Ohio Power Siting Board, be sold before
12 it even goes live.

13 A good example of that is in
14 Hardin County right now next door.
15 That was mentioned earlier today.

16 These industrial solar companies
17 have money to pay lobbyists and public
18 relation firms. The small communities
19 that they are attacking can barely
20 gather money to purchase signs to show
21 our opposition to the project.

22 Have you noticed these industrial
23 solar fields are being placed near
24 small communities that probably can't
25 fight back? You will not see this

1 allowed right outside of Bellefontaine
2 or Marysville. Apparently someone
3 thinks it's okay to sacrifice us here
4 in our small communities.

5 MS. SEE: You have 30 seconds.

6 MS. ROSEBROOK: Okay.

7 Another item you will hear from
8 Invenergy is they were hire locals.
9 Well, Invenergy has projects in Hardin
10 and Union County right now.

11 Do you know anyone that works
12 there? I don't. The representatives
13 of Invenergy or whomever owns the
14 project in the long run will never live
15 here. They will never have to look at
16 the mess. Their children will not be
17 dealing with these industrial solar
18 fields 45 years from now but ours will.
19 The thought of that hurts my heart.

20 MS. SEE: You are out of time.

21 MS. ROSEBROOK: I will close with
22 thank you guys for letting me speak. I
23 appreciate that.

24 MS. SEE: Any cross for this
25 witness?

1 MS. ROSEBROOK: Thank you.

2 MS. SEE: David L. Jackson, come
3 forward to be prepared to offer
4 testimony.

5 Mr. Jenkins, raise your right
6 hand.

7 STEVE JENKINS

8 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
9 tell the truth, testified as follows:

10 MS. SEE: Please state and spell
11 your name and give us your address.

12 MR. JENKINS: Steve Jenkins,
13 J-E-N-K-I-N-S, 2839 Township Road 56,
14 Bellefontaine.

15 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
16 proceeding?

17 MR. JENKINS: No.

18 MS. SEE: And do you live or work
19 in the project area?

20 MR. JENKINS: No.

21 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
22 testimony.

23 MR. JENKINS: I'm here to voice my
24 opposition to the Fountain Point Solar
25 Project. I'm a Logan County resident

1 living just a few miles north of
2 Bellefontaine, and I can tell the
3 persona that was just here that, you
4 know, they are trying to get into
5 Bellefontaine.

6 In fact, I have been offered money
7 and we're fighting that. Big farmer in
8 our area has denied it and so we think
9 that's probably going to stop it.

10 But, the point is they're okay
11 with coming right up to the edge of
12 Bellefontaine as they're doing here in
13 West Mansfield.

14 I'm a Logan Hills graduate,
15 retired from information system
16 management. The Fountain Point project
17 is unfair to many non-signers that live
18 near the proposed area. These adjacent
19 land owners have property rights too.

20 My sister who was up here to speak
21 here a little bit ago lives on the west
22 edge of West Mansfield. They live in a
23 beautiful home they built sometime back
24 adjacent to the proposed project.

25 Yes, Fountain Point has to bring

1 this project right to the boundaries of
2 a small village. Their property value
3 will decrease, wildlife nature as they
4 currently enjoy will likely be
5 mitigated or even cease to exist.

6 The cost to invade, whether real
7 or not, will cause enormous anxiety
8 which in itself often causes health
9 issues.

10 There are studies signal view.
11 Views of rolling farmland will be
12 replaced by rows and rows of monotonous
13 solar panels and the 675,000 panels,
14 675,000 panels in the countryside right
15 here in West Mansfield.

16 Has anybody asked where these
17 panels will come from, where they will
18 be made? I think we all know the
19 answer. China. Will they be made with
20 slave labor in the detention camps
21 there, and how do you think it will
22 sound with heavy equipment incessantly
23 driving them 103,000 iron tiles into
24 the ground along with the dirt and dust
25 and compaction of what will accompany

1 the construction?

2 The project ground will be
3 destroyed from farming not just for 35
4 to 45 years but in perpetuity.

5 I'm -- well, I'm going to skip
6 that part.

7 Last but not least, these solar
8 panels will not exist on their own
9 dime. They depend on government
10 subsidies funded by our tax dollars so
11 those affected will experience the
12 double whammy and give to pay for
13 something they don't want in their
14 lives.

15 Please, please disapprove this
16 project. Thank you.

17 MS. SEE: You mentioned your
18 sister who previously offered
19 testimony. Can you give us her name
20 please?

21 MR. JENKINS: Christi Skidmore.

22 MS. SEE: Any cross-examination?
23 Thank you.

24 Matt Wiley, if you can come
25 forward and be ready to offer

1 testimony.

2 MS. SEE: Mr. Jackson, you can
3 raise your right hand.

4 DAVID JACKSON

5 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
6 tell the truth, testified as follows:

7 MS. SEE: State and spell your
8 name for the record and give us your
9 address.

10 MR. JACKSON: David L Jackson,
11 J-A-C-K-S-O-N. My address is 1818
12 Township Road 46 South, Bellefontaine,
13 Ohio.

14 MS. SEE: Are you a party to this
15 proceeding?

16 MR. JACKSON: I'm a trustee.

17 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
18 your testimony.

19 MR. JACKSON: Good evening. My
20 name is David Jackson. I'm from
21 Harrison Township. I'm a trustee. I'm
22 also the vice president of Logan County
23 Trustee Association.

24 I'm here speaking on behalf of Don
25 Bradley which couldn't make it. I'm

1 filling in.

2 MS. SEE: Sir, just to be clear,
3 you're a trustee in what township?

4 MR. JACKSON: Harrison Township,
5 west side of the county.

6 This testimony is not intended to
7 speak but to -- come -- command of land
8 and opposition to Fountain Point Solar.
9 Has been demonstrated by voting for
10 trustees of Logan County.

11 When we became aware in late 2021
12 the guidelines of Senate 52 as a
13 trustee our board sought input from our
14 community before we were aware of any
15 practices in our county, we began the
16 process of making a resolution
17 requesting Logan County commissioners
18 declare our township restricted under
19 the authority of SB 52, Senate Bill 52.

20 Once we became aware of the
21 Fountain Point Project in January of
22 2022 we heard some of the details, we
23 thought additional information that was
24 needed.

25 We were made aware of not only was

1 this project under consideration but
2 additional projects had already
3 obtained grid connections approved and
4 were probably in the making for Logan
5 County. This was shared and discussed
6 at our quarterly meeting of Logan
7 County Trustee Association.

8 The township at this point began
9 investigating and discussing with their
10 community about this. By the end of
11 May nearly -- by the end of May nearly
12 the entire county had agreed to request
13 restrictions of status under House Bill
14 52.

15 In July county commissioners
16 passed a resolution restricting 16 of
17 the 17 townships for further solar
18 panels under the authority of House
19 Bill 52. This resolution went into
20 force on September 12, 2022.

21 You should also know that 13 of
22 these township board passed resolutions
23 to enter a letter of opposition against
24 Fountain Point Solar in responsibility
25 of elected officials to protect our

1 general public and individuals and
2 individual companies.

3 By this commitment, overwhelmingly
4 we the township feel Fountain Point
5 Solar should be denied.

6 MS. SEE: Any cross?

7 MS. PARCELS: Just to clarify,
8 sir, you're speaking on behalf of
9 Harrison Township as well as the Logan
10 County Township Association?

11 MR. JACKSON: Yes, I am. 13, the
12 ones that --

13 MS. PARCELS: The ones that voted
14 for that letter?

15 MR. JACKSON: Yes.

16 MS. PARCELS: I have no further
17 questions.

18 MS. SEE: Thank you.

19 Sasha Slonecker. The next witness
20 is Sasha Slonecker.

21 Mr. Wiley?

22 MR. WILEY: I'm Matt Wiley,
23 W-I-L-E-Y.

24 MATT WILEY

25 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to

1 tell the truth, testified as follows:

2 MS. SEE: State and spell your
3 name for the record.

4 MR. WILEY: Matt Wiley.

5 MS. SEE: Wait just a moment. Let
6 me finish.

7 MR. WILEY: Sorry about that.

8 MS. SEE: State your name and
9 address for the record and let us know
10 whether you're a party in this
11 proceeding.

12 MR. WILEY: Matt Wiley, W-I-L-E-Y,
13 7754 State Route 292, Zanesfield, Ohio,
14 43360.

15 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
16 proceeding?

17 MR. WILEY: No.

18 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
19 the project area?

20 MR. WILEY: No.

21 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
22 your testimony.

23 MR. WILEY: About 35 years ago
24 after getting married we had several
25 trips to California where my wife is

1 from. On one of those trips I saw a
2 whole row of windmills across the
3 mountainside somewhere in Wyoming or a
4 state out there.

5 As I'm driving looking around, I
6 didn't see lights anywhere except on
7 the towers. Thinking about that, I
8 thought gee whiz, this is not affecting
9 too many people, their neighborhood.
10 Maybe a few cows.

11 Now I'm driving to Hardin County
12 and see windmills all over the place
13 and it's affecting a few more people.
14 Now we have solar knocking on our front
15 door which will affect many lives.

16 Also for 35 years I was on the
17 Logan County Tourism Council with the
18 Chamber of Commerce for this county.
19 Our facility alone, which is Marvin
20 Valley Farm, operates riding stables
21 and summer camp. We have roughly 35 to
22 40,000 visitors a year to come to our
23 countryside. They travel through Union
24 County and Logan County to get to our
25 facility.

1 Also, Logan County with many other
2 tourist attractions. We have Indian
3 Lake, 5,000-acre beautiful lake. We
4 have Ohio caverns, Mad River Mountain
5 Ski Hill. We have many places people
6 come to escape development, to escape
7 all these things they see around them
8 every day.

9 What are we doing? Adding to
10 that. Industrializing our farmland.
11 Along with the folks who already spoke
12 tonight, I'm fully in agreement with
13 the opposition. I think I'm speaker
14 number 15 out of whatever the final
15 count is.

16 So far 15 of us, I think, have
17 been in opposition. I have yet to hear
18 someone say: Hay, let's build them.

19 Anyway, that's my point tonight.
20 Thank you very much.

21 MS. SEE: Any cross?

22 Thank you very much, Mr. Wiley.

23 MR. WILEY: Thank you.

24 MS. SEE: Ms. Slonecker, step up.

25 Nick Cronkleton. I think I just

1 butchered your name. Mr. Cronkleton,
2 are you here? Come on down to the
3 front.

4 Ms. Slonecker, raise your right
5 hand.

6 MS. SEE: Off the record for a
7 second.

8 (Off record briefly)

9 MS. SEE: Ms. Slonecker, raise
10 your right hand.

11 SASHA SLONECKER

12 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
13 tell the truth, testified as follows:

14 MS. SEE: Please state and spell
15 your name for the record.

16 MS. SLONECKER: Sasha Slonecker.
17 S-A-S-H-A, S-L-O-N-E-C-K-E-R.

18 MS. SEE: Provide us your address.

19 MS. SLONECKER: 922 Township Road
20 132, West Mansfield, Ohio.

21 MS. SEE: And do you live or work
22 in the project area?

23 MS. SLONECKER: No.

24 MS. SEE: And are you a party in
25 this case? Have you filed with the

1 board to be a party?

2 MS. SLONECKER: No.

3 MS. SEE: You said you don't live
4 or work in the project area?

5 MS. SLONECKER: No.

6 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
7 your testimony.

8 MS. SLONECKER: Good evening. I
9 am 16 years old and live in West
10 Mansfield, Perry Township. When we
11 moved -- when we moved back to Ohio, we
12 wanted to live in the county so we
13 could have a big garden and my mom
14 wanted chickens. Living in the middle
15 of nowhere has its challenges but I
16 think it was the best decision of us
17 because I love being outside the house.
18 It helps with my depression and I feel
19 better when I can walk around our pond
20 or explore the woods near our house.
21 Thankfully my mom and others in this
22 room helped shrink the project so it
23 won't be next to our house.

24 If you approve this project, I
25 feel bad for my friends who will live

1 near all those solar panels. They
2 won't be able to go outside and take a
3 walk around their pond and enjoy it
4 like I can.

5 They will probably have coyotes in
6 their backyard since the solar panels
7 will have a fence around them and the
8 coyotes won't be able to roam freely.

9 My great pyrenes killed a coyote a
10 couple weeks ago on our property. My
11 friends with chickens, ducks, cats, and
12 small dogs will have to be extra
13 careful, and that makes me sad. They
14 will have to change the way they live
15 just because of solar panels.

16 If you were 16 years old, would
17 you want to leave your friends and
18 start over? That is what will happen
19 if you approve this project. My
20 parents will sell our house and we will
21 move away from this great place. I
22 don't want to do that. I want to live
23 here for a long time.

24 I was thinking when I'm old enough
25 I would work at Fields Grocery and save

1 money for college, then buy a small
2 house in town to be closer to my mom
3 and dad, maybe marry a cute farmer and
4 raise our family here. That won't
5 happen if you approve this project.

6 So I just wanted to say that I
7 think you should deny this project
8 because country living is supposed to
9 give us freedom and this project goes
10 against freedom.

11 My two grandparents fought in the
12 Korean War and World War II so we could
13 live free.

14 Putting a fence around thousands
15 of solar panels and making my friends
16 change the way they live is not
17 freedom.

18 If I wanted China in my
19 neighborhood, I would move to China.
20 There is more to life than money.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. SEE: Thank you. Any
23 cross-examination?

24 Thank you very much, Sasha.

25 Kalyn Wenger?

1 Mr. Cronkleton, raise your right
2 hand.

3 NICK CRONKLETON

4 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
5 tell the truth, testified as follows:

6 MS. SEE: State and spell your
7 name for the record and also provide
8 your address.

9 MR. CRONKLETON: My name is Nick
10 Cronkleton. N-I-C-K,
11 C-R-O-N-K-L-E-T-O-N. I live at 2062
12 County Road 8 just west of West
13 Mansfield, Ohio.

14 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
15 the project area?

16 MR. CRONKLETON: Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
18 proceeding?

19 MR. CRONKLETON: No, ma'am.

20 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
21 testimony.

22 MR. CRONKLETON: I'm a fourth
23 generation farmer. My great
24 grandfather plowed the ground with
25 mules on the ground my brother and I

1 own on a farm. Our roots go really
2 deep here.

3 One of the fields I currently farm
4 was granted to an ancestor for their
5 service during the Civil War. We have
6 been here a lot longer than Invenergy.

7 There are a few serious concerns I
8 have from a farmer's perspective on how
9 if this solar point or this solar farm
10 goes in not only will it make my job as
11 a farmer that butts up against this in
12 a few spots but everybody that farms
13 that didn't sign up for this, that will
14 make their job harder.

15 The number one thing, they had
16 their first spiel over here at the
17 middle school and they had these really
18 dressed-up pictures and their solar
19 panels are all in a nice straight line
20 front to back of the field, just east
21 and west, looked as good as they could.
22 The problem with that is the tiles are
23 in angles through fields and when
24 you're pounding I-beams through fence
25 posts, 103,000 of them, it's not a

1 question of if you damage the lateral
2 and main tile lines; it's how often.

3 When a tile is damaged, it will
4 turn into a suck hole which means it's
5 drawing soil from that very spot down
6 into the tile so it's not just maybe
7 pooling up right there but the longer
8 it does that the more soil it will
9 absorb and it will make it less
10 efficient whether it's going to my farm
11 or from my farm.

12 It is illegal to dam up tile in
13 any manner and I don't see how in the
14 world you drive 103,000 I-beams and not
15 do that in several areas.

16 Once those posts are all pounded,
17 the fences are up, and it's
18 operational, there's no going back in
19 and putting a new main in to save my
20 farm or a neighboring farm if it deems
21 it's damaged. There's only one way.
22 If it's four miles around it and you
23 don't have the fall, you're out of
24 luck.

25 The other big thing I saw whether

1 Invenergy still owns the project in
2 Hardin County or not it's not just
3 leased. The summer before last when
4 this all kicked off we took a drive up
5 there and there were giant weeds,
6 marestail, which you ask any farmer in
7 the world, those weeds are real
8 problems for us, and the problem is the
9 bigger section of it you have when
10 you're spread out, you have all that
11 weed seed that when it matures, whether
12 it's summer or fall, the wind will blow
13 and that blows on the adjacent farmers.
14 If you have a nice clean field and
15 there's all that weed seed blowing
16 over, you're going to have problems
17 next year that you shouldn't have.

18 There's been a lot of discussion
19 about property owners' rights. Did the
20 farmers that signed up have the right
21 to do that? Do I have the right to not
22 have the tile that drains my field
23 damaged and weed seed blown over onto
24 my farm?

25 In a civilized society there are

1 always limits on what people can do
2 with their own ground. To take it to
3 the extreme, if somebody offered me 20
4 million dollars to put hazardous waste
5 in a clay pit behind my house, it might
6 be good deal for me but not such a good
7 deal for the rest of the community.

8 I also don't believe that 14
9 million dollars in 25 or 45 years,
10 however long it is, will be enough to
11 deconstruct what's been done to the
12 ground.

13 Watching the project in Union
14 County as topsoil is scraped off with
15 dozers, real roads are built, number
16 2's, number 3's and 4's will be there.
17 They're building real roads that are
18 going to go through there. You're not
19 just going to tear those out.

20 I want to say I'm not the voice of
21 the collective here. I'm an
22 individual. I care about my family, my
23 farm, and community.

24 I think that what Invenergy is
25 proposing to you is bad for almost

1 everybody.

2 For some reason our country has
3 decided that things that made us great
4 are things that we can just throw away
5 now, things like coal, natural gas.
6 Now this country is asking us to be
7 okay with destroying farm ground.

8 In closing, these solar fields are
9 ugly. I don't want to drive by them
10 the rest of my life. I ask that you
11 deny this project.

12 MS. SEE: Any cross-examination?

13 MS. PARCELS: No.

14 MS. SEE: Thank you.

15 Brian Kavanagh? Brian Kavanagh?
16 Are you Mr. Kavanagh? Are you a party
17 in this proceeding?

18 MR. KAVANAGH: No.

19 MS. SEE: Okay. Step forward.

20 Ms. Wenger, please raise your
21 right hand.

22 KALYN WENGER

23 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
24 tell the truth, testified as follows:

25 MS. SEE: State and spell your

1 name for the record and give us your
2 address.

3 MS. WENGER: Okay. Kalyn Wenger,
4 K-A-L-Y-N, W-E-N-G-E-R, 11250 State
5 Road 47, West Mansfield, Ohio.

6 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
7 the project area?

8 MS. WENGER: Yes, ma'am.

9 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
10 proceeding?

11 MS. WENGER: No, ma'am.

12 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
13 testimony.

14 MS. WENGER: Thank you. Good
15 evening, everyone. My name is Kalyn
16 Wenger. I'm the daughter of Nick
17 Cronkleton. I'm here today in
18 opposition of the Fountain Point Solar
19 Project.

20 In 1944 my great grandparents,
21 George and Bernadine Cronkleton, bought
22 a farm from his dad, 11250 State Route
23 47, West Mansfield.

24 Over the years they worked the
25 land, they nurtured it, made a living

1 from it. This is where I hope to do
2 the same.

3 My husband Blake and I are in the
4 process of buying this land and
5 building our house due to the original
6 farmhouse burning earlier this year.
7 We chose to stay here even if the solar
8 company comes because of our ties to
9 this land.

10 As I know, other farmers have
11 stated the solar farm comes with
12 multiple concerns, damage to drainage
13 tile, decreased property value, weed
14 population, as well as my biggest
15 concern is the next generation farmer
16 land grant and land prices. As we all
17 know, land is expensive and in short
18 supply already.

19 With taking this much land out of
20 commission is only reasonable to say
21 that grant/land prices will go up
22 making it much harder for the younger
23 generation of farmers to get started.
24 Without this continuation of
25 agriculture, how will these skills get

1 passed down?

2 According to the USDA Economic
3 Research Service, 1.4 percent of the
4 labor force is engaged in farming as of
5 September 23rd, 2021. I believe this
6 is an occupation worth protecting.

7 Thank you so much for your time.

8 MS. SEE: Any cross?

9 MS. PARCELS: No.

10 MS. SEE: Thank you.

11 MS. WENGER: Thank you, ma'am.

12 Mr. Kavanagh?

13 And Lorre Culp, you can take a
14 seat next to the podium and be prepared
15 to offer testimony.

16 Mr. Kavanagh, please raise your
17 right hand.

18 BRIAN KAVANAGH

19 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
20 tell the truth, testified as follows:

21 MS. SEE: Please state and spell
22 your name for the record.

23 MR. KAVANAGH: Brian Kavanagh,
24 B-R-I-A-N, K-A-V-A-N-A-G-H.

25 MS. SEE: What's your address,

1 sir?

2 MR. KAVANAGH: 2339 County Road 8,
3 West Mansfield.

4 MS. SEE: And I believe you
5 indicated that you're not a party to
6 this proceeding?

7 MR. KAVANAGH: Right.

8 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
9 the project area?

10 MR. KAVANAGH: Near.

11 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
12 your testimony.

13 MR. KAVANAGH: Fountain Point
14 Solar Energy submitted an application
15 on August 23rd, 2022 that the proposed
16 project here area had been downsized
17 and will be approximately 2,770 acres.
18 Only 1,700 acres will be used for
19 solar. That's only 62 percent of the
20 project area, leaving 38 percent of the
21 land wasted which amounts to over a
22 third of the project area. Think about
23 that. A third of that acreage sitting
24 there growing weeds and so on.

25 On November 15th, 2022 the world's

1 population reached 8 billion people.
2 We hear about food shortages and
3 starving people daily worldwide on a
4 day-to-day basis. Just wait for all
5 these utility solar projects are put on
6 prime agricultural ground. We cannot
7 eat solar panels. We all depend on the
8 American farmer every day.

9 I'm not against the solar in the
10 right places: On rooftops of parking
11 garages, big box stores, homes, so on.

12 The most important place it does
13 not belong is on agricultural farm
14 ground placed for over 45 years.

15 This project does not meet the
16 public interest and convenience and
17 necessity. It needs to be denied.
18 Thank you.

19 MS. SEE: Thank you. Any cross?

20 MS. PARCELS: No.

21 MS. SEE: Thank you, Mr. Kavanagh.

22 Linda Hughes, you can step forward
23 to be prepared to offer testimony.

24 Ms. Culp, please raise your right
25 hand.

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LORRE CULP

After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
tell the truth, testified as follows:

MS. SEE: State and spell your
name for the record and give us your
address.

MS. CULP: Lorre, L-O-R-R-E, Culp,
C-U-L-P, 19111 Bear Swamp Road,
Marysville, Ohio.

MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
proceeding?

MS. CULP: Adjacent land owner.

MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
proceeding?

MS. CULP: No, ma'am.

MS. SEE: You already clarified
that you live near the project area.
Go ahead with your testimony.

MS. CULP: Good evening. Thank
you for receiving our comments tonight
and welcome to scenic and
agriculturally-productive Logan County.
I'm opposed to the Fountain Point
Project. I'm opposed to Invenergy's
influence and manipulation in Logan

1 County. I'm opposed to nameless,
2 faceless state level staff's loosely
3 applied process of holding
4 deep-pocketed corporations accountable
5 to the individuals who are conducting
6 their daily lives in the proposed
7 project footprint, and I am
8 disappointed in officials who place
9 their personal interests before those
10 they represent.

11 As a co-owner of properties
12 adjacent to the solar footprint, I have
13 yet to be officially contacted by
14 Invenergy informing me of the project.
15 This has been brought to the attention
16 of Invenergy's project representatives,
17 and still no correspondence.

18 This demonstrates Invenergy's
19 substandard commitment to the Ohio
20 Power Siting Board's rules and
21 specifications and is a discriminatory
22 violation of my right to notification.

23 What other Ohio Power Siting Board
24 rules has Invenergy neglected to comply
25 with? Invenergy's failure to fairly

1 notify all affected landowners does not
2 instill confidence in integrity and
3 capabilities or the oversight process.

4 This process must not move forward
5 when the siting authority is made aware
6 that selected affected landowners were
7 deliberately excluded from the official
8 notification process.

9 Consider yourselves notified.
10 Thank you and may God Bless America.

11 MS. SEE: Any cross for this
12 witness?

13 MS. PARCELS: No.

14 MS. SEE: Thank you, Ms. Culp.

15 Betsy Reames? Ms. Reames, step
16 forward and be prepared to offer
17 testimony next.

18 Ms. Hughes?

19 MS. HUGHES: Yes.

20 MS. SEE: Please raise your right
21 hand.

22 LINDA HUGHES

23 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
24 tell the truth, testified as follows:

25 MS. SEE: State and spell your

1 name and give us your address please.

2 MS. HUGHES: Linda Hughes,
3 H-U-G-H-E-S, 6320 State Route 540,
4 Bellefontaine.

5 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
6 the project area?

7 MS. HUGHES: I'm an owner of two
8 adjacent parcels in Bokescreek
9 Township.

10 MS. SEE: Are you a party to this
11 proceeding?

12 MS. HUGHES: No.

13 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
14 testimony.

15 MS. HUGHES: The Invenergy
16 Fountain Point website is enlightening.
17 It boasts of their involvement in Logan
18 County.

19 Under adjacent landowner outreach
20 it states mailings with project
21 information to 140-plus landowners,
22 door-to-door efforts to cease specific
23 concerns in and around the project
24 area, 50-plus stores stocked, phone
25 outreach, and follow-up, 100 calls

1 completed.

2 The Logan County Reporters Website
3 lists recorded option agreements with a
4 proposed project beginning November
5 19th, 2019 with in '20, '21, and '22.

6 Invenergy has been trolling our
7 area for 3-plus years. They are not
8 strangers to our community. Why then
9 in these 3-plus years has Invenergy
10 made no attempt to contact our family
11 personally about this proposed project?
12 No door-to-door, no phone outreach, no
13 project information mailing.

14 I did receive a postcard addressed
15 to current resident in which Daniel
16 Vertucci wrote: We want to be good
17 stewards of the land and members of the
18 community.

19 Our family farm ground in
20 Bokescreek Township is adjacent to two
21 lease locations in the proposed
22 project.

23 We continue to wait and wonder why
24 Invenergy has failed to notify us of
25 their intent to place solar panels on

1 the leased acres that abut our family
2 farm ground.

3 In response to the ninth data
4 request from Fountain Point Solar to
5 the OPSB staff Invenergy lists our two
6 property parcel APN's. Invenergy was
7 well aware that two parcels of our farm
8 grounds abut leased land. The proof is
9 in their documents.

10 At the January 12, 2022 public
11 information meeting at Benjamin Logan
12 Middle School Daniel Vertucci, manager
13 of Renewable Development for Invenergy
14 was personally questioned on this
15 oversight.

16 In February of 2022 at the
17 Bokescreek Township Trustee meeting
18 Invenergy employee, Zack Amos, was
19 personally questioned on this
20 oversight. Each of these
21 representatives handwrote contact
22 information for notification. Their
23 response was for failure to notify was
24 sometimes the mail is not reliable and
25 it can be difficult to locate addresses

1 in the record.

2 At a later date when again
3 personally questioned as to why we were
4 ignored, Mr. Vertucci revealed that our
5 family was considered definite no's.
6 Invenergy clearly knew we owned two
7 adjacent parcels but chose not to
8 contact us by any other stated methods.

9 We are still waiting.
10 Transparent? Credible? Honorable?
11 Truthful? Good stewards of the land
12 and members of the community? This
13 certainly is not our personal
14 experience.

15 Invenergy makes public
16 commitments, but words are cheap. An
17 approved project promises more of same.
18 No response to public concern or
19 problems? Just a glaring lack of
20 commitment to our community and more
21 empty words.

22 In our personal situation
23 Invenergy has demonstrated that
24 multiple personal contacts were not
25 worthy of their attention. They do not

1 care.

2 Safety is also a significant
3 concern. Throughout the years many
4 traffic accidents have occurred at the
5 intersection of State Route 292 and
6 State Route 47, approximately two miles
7 east of our location here.

8 Those of us who reside in this
9 area and have traveled these routes are
10 well aware of the history and the
11 multiple injuries of fatalities that
12 have occurred there.

13 These busy states routes are
14 pathways to Honda and to the Benjamin
15 Local School Complex. The construction
16 destruction and insistence of proposed
17 panels line the two busy state routes
18 in the vicinity of this intersection
19 pose an immediate distraction and
20 danger to all travelers.

21 On August 11, 2022 the Board of
22 Logan County Commissioners with 16 of
23 the 17 Boards of Township Trustees
24 voted to restrict 16 townships from
25 large wind and solar development.

1 If not for the grandfathered
2 provisions present in Senate Bill 52
3 this proposed project would be legally
4 prohibited in Logan County. It is the
5 outpouring of persistence from the
6 community as well as opposition from
7 our Senators Huffman, McColley and
8 Representative Vitale, opposition
9 letters from 13 of 17 Logan County
10 Township Trustee Boards, intervention
11 by citizens, the Rushcreek Township
12 Trustees and the Logan County
13 Commissioners, signatures in
14 opposition, letters of opposition both
15 numbering in the multiple hundreds that
16 demonstrate that Fountain Point will
17 not serve the public interest as
18 required in the code.

19 Fountain, Point is not welcome
20 here, and the outcry of opposition by
21 local officials and citizens is proof
22 of that fact. It does not satisfy the
23 public interest, convenience, and
24 necessity and we call for denial of
25 Fountain Point Solar.

1 MS. SEE: Thank you.

2 Any cross?

3 MS. PARCELS: No.

4 MS. SEE: Thank you very much.

5 Next witness, Linda Coats.

6 Ms. Reames, please raise your
7 right hand.

8 BETSY REAMES

9 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
10 tell the truth, testified as follows:

11 MS. SEE: State and spell your
12 name for the record and also state your
13 address.

14 MS. REAMES: Betsy Reames,
15 R-E-A-M-E-S, 4308 State Route 273 West,
16 Bellefontaine, Ohio.

17 MS. SEE: And do you live or work
18 in the project area?

19 MS. REAMES: No.

20 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
21 proceeding?

22 MS. REAMES: No.

23 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
24 testimony.

25 MS. REAMES: All right. I'm

1 opposed to the Fountain Point Solar
2 Project. There's a lack of
3 transparency in the business dealings
4 of Invenergy. They have been caught
5 lying at township meetings and to local
6 farmers, have harassed landowners to
7 leave and have been proven to have lied
8 about the hiring of 80 percent Ohio
9 workers in the Hardin 1 solar project.

10 The Laborers International Union
11 of North America, District 8, Regional
12 Committee, has opposed the facility and
13 provided factual information regarding
14 Invenergy's false reporting of hiring
15 Ohio citizens.

16 Invenergy used a hiring agency,
17 People Ready, to employ out-of-state,
18 temporary, unskilled workers for the
19 Hardin 1 solar project. Under the
20 pilot program Invenergy was required to
21 have 80 percent of its construction
22 workers be Ohio residents.

23 I would ask you to review the
24 Hardin 1 solar project case.
25 Specifically, the workers'

1 documentation regarding hours worked
2 and their proof of residency in Ohio to
3 determine if Invenergy met OPSB
4 requirements.

5 Based on evidence, Invenergy has
6 failed to establish that the facility
7 will serve public interest,
8 convenience, and necessity as required
9 by ORC 4906.10(a)6.

10 Local and state government
11 officials have publicly opposed this
12 project. There is strong opposition
13 from citizens of Logan County as
14 evidenced by the county's approved
15 resolution to restrict large wind and
16 solar projects.

17 Therefore, I request that the
18 Fountain Solar Point Solar Project be
19 denied.

20 MS. SEE: Thank you. Any cross?

21 MS. PARCELS:

22 MS. PARCELS: No.

23 MS. SEE: Thank you very much,
24 Ms. Reames.

25 I know that Jeny Hammer is after

1 Ms. Coats but as a party we're going to
2 again ask you to go last.

3 If Trent Hammer could step forward
4 and be prepared to offer testimony.

5 Ms. Coats, raise your right hand.

6 LINDA COATS

7 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
8 tell the truth, testified as follows:

9 MS. SEE: State and spell your
10 name and provide your address.

11 MS. COATS: Linda Coats,
12 C-O-A-T-S, and my address is 2576
13 County Road 8, West Mansfield, Ohio
14 43358.

15 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
16 proceeding?

17 MS. COATS: No.

18 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
19 the project area?

20 MS. COATS: Near.

21 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
22 testimony.

23 MS. COATS: I'm opposed to the
24 Fountain Point Solar Project. My main
25 reason is it does not benefit

1 anything -- any of the local
2 communities and it is basically a
3 negative impact because of the
4 agricultural land being used.

5 Even my young grandchildren have
6 been able to equate that the loss of
7 our farm ground means a loss of our
8 food sources, and for these reasons and
9 many others that have already been
10 mentioned I would like to ask you to
11 deny this project.

12 MS. SEE: Any cross?

13 MS. PARCELS: No.

14 MS. SEE: Thank you very much,
15 Ms. Coats?

16 Is there an Emily Coats? I'm
17 sorry?

18 Cogossi? Okay. And that's Emily
19 Cogossi? Step forward and be prepared
20 to give testimony.

21 Mr. Hammer, raise your right hand.

22 TRENT HAMMER

23 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
24 tell the truth, testified as follows:

25 MS. SEE: State and spell your

1 name and also state your address.

2 MR. HAMMER: Trent Hammer,
3 T-R-E-N-T, H-A-M-M-E-R, 2532 State
4 Route 292, West Mansfield, Ohio.

5 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
6 case?

7 MR. HAMMER: No.

8 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
9 the project area?

10 MR. HAMMER: Yes.

11 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
12 your testimony.

13 MR. HAMMER: Hello, board members.
14 My name is Trent Hammer and I strongly
15 oppose Fountain Point Solar. I will
16 tell you why. I was raised on a farm
17 where I had a wonderful life growing
18 up. Thus, when I started my own family
19 24 years ago, I purchased a home in the
20 country for my wife and kids to enjoy
21 life in a rural setting as I did. I
22 wanted my kids and eventually their
23 kids to enjoy the piece and beauty of
24 Logan County. However, this dream is
25 now in jeopardy with the potential of

1 Fountain Point Solar invading our
2 backyards and numerous other failings
3 in Logan County.

4 This project will turn one of the
5 most beautiful counties in Ohio into an
6 eye sore, and if approved I will sadly
7 move out of the area.

8 Logan County has approximately 100
9 sunny days, 76 partly sunny days per
10 year. This equates to 37 percent of
11 available sun for solar, please ask
12 yourself does solar make sense for
13 Logan County.

14 In addition to an inefficient
15 source of power, it will come with the
16 loss of precious farm ground. Again,
17 please ask yourself: Does solar make
18 sense for Logan County?

19 You see, I also have an
20 opportunity to lease my farm ground
21 where I grew up in another county in
22 Ohio. The amount of lease money
23 offered to me would equate to an early
24 retirement and a very comfortable
25 living. However, if I leased my

1 ground, it would put 3 farmers out of
2 work. These 3 farmers are my nephews.
3 Their families would definitely be
4 negatively impacted by the loss of
5 income.

6 So, I ask you: What would you do?
7 Could you live with yourself if you
8 profited at the expense of others,
9 especially your only own family? I
10 could not.

11 In the same vein, would you, the
12 Ohio board members, approve this
13 proposal caused heartache among the
14 many and support the greed of a few.

15 I have to say: Let your conscious
16 be your guide. Thank you and God
17 bless.

18 MS. SEE: Mr. Hammer, you
19 submitted comments, didn't you?

20 MR. HAMMER: I think she did.

21 MS. SEE: Any cross-examination
22 for this witness?

23 MS. PARCELS: No.

24 MS. SEE: Mr. Wolever, if you can
25 step forward and be ready to offer

1 testimony right after Ms. Cogossi does.
2 Ms. Cogossi, did I pronounce that
3 correctly?

4 MS. COGOSSI: Yes.

5 MS. SEE: Ms. Cogossi, please
6 raise your right hand.

7 EMILY COGOSSI

8 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
9 tell the truth, testified as follows:

10 MS. SEE: State and spell your
11 name for the record and also state your
12 address.

13 MS. COGOSSI: Emily Cogossi,
14 E-M-I-L-Y, C-O-G-O-S-S-I.

15 MS. SEE: What is your address?

16 MS. COGOSSI: 10970 State Route
17 47, West Mansfield, Ohio.

18 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
19 the project area?

20 MS. COGOSSI: Yes. Live.

21 MS. SEE: You are not a party to
22 the case?

23 MS. COGOSSI: No.

24 MS. SEE: Go ahead.

25 MS. COGOSSI: Hello. My name is

1 Emily Cogossi. I am 16 years old and a
2 student at Benjamin Logan High School.
3 Me and my family moved to West
4 Mansfield a little over 2 years ago.
5 We moved from new York to the country
6 so we could be surrounded by beautiful
7 corn beautiful nature.

8 Living in the country puts you
9 closer to nature and far from the
10 hustle and bustle of the city.

11 We have so much access to all of
12 the outdoor activities that we love
13 including riding our 4-wheelers,
14 hunting, camping, in our backyard and
15 so much room for our dogs to run around
16 with leashes -- without leashes.

17 Because it feels free and it's so
18 much fun -- sorry.

19 MS. SEE: Take a second.

20 MS. COGOSSI: My home is on 2 1/2
21 acres just outside West Mansfield. The
22 amount of families and people that this
23 idea will impact is honestly so sad and
24 I feel that this idea is so selfish and
25 arrogant to go through with.

1 Although you can make lots of
2 money and you can use this resource for
3 a little bit of power, there are way
4 too many negatives to this action.

5 MS. SEE: Any cross?

6 MS. PARCELS: No.

7 MS. SEE: Thank you very much.

8 Cole Wolever?

9 You are Jim?

10 MR. WOLEVER: I'm Jim.

11 MS. SEE: Could you raise your
12 right hand?

13 JIM WOLEVER

14 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
15 tell the truth, testified as follows:

16 MR. WOLEVER: As always, yes.

17 MS. SEE: State and spell your
18 name for the record and also state your
19 address.

20 MR. WOLEVER: Jim, J-I-M, Wolever,
21 W-O-L-E-V-E-R.

22 MS. SEE: Okay. Are you a party
23 to this proceeding?

24 MR. WOLEVER: No.

25 MS. SEE: And do you live or work

1 in the project area?

2 MR. WOLEVER: No.

3 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
4 your testimony.

5 MR. WOLEVER: I'm opposed. The
6 area of Eastern Logan County is a
7 beautiful and unusual geological
8 mountain area formed from the Wisconsin
9 glacier split thousands of years ago.

10 The staff report states that the
11 200 miles geologic structures of the
12 project area are known to be
13 susceptible to harsh development and
14 further states, quote: The applicant
15 indicates that there are some factors
16 which indicate that the potential for
17 harsh formation cannot totally be ruled
18 out for the site but overall harsh
19 potential for the site appears to be
20 low. Not very comforting.

21 There are some anecdotal evidence.
22 Going north along County Road 12 where
23 I live from the intersection of State
24 Route 47, skirting the project boundary
25 you can find at least 6 artesian

1 overflows, 3 of which are in use as
2 private water sources; Zane Caverns,
3 about 2 miles west of the project
4 boundary, has 6 levels of caverns of
5 which have been accessed; and 2 of
6 which are available for tours.

7 You might also ask one of your
8 voting members if he has experience
9 with a harsh future sink hole on his
10 own property less than one mile from
11 the project boundary, a fairly normal
12 occurrence in this area.

13 These geological structures are
14 local head water sources for several
15 roofer systems at least brings to
16 question potential for environmental
17 impact.

18 The industrial scale project
19 contradicts both Ohio's Preservation
20 Policy and Logan County Comprehensive
21 Plan.

22 44 percent of Ohio's farmland is
23 identified as prime soils. If you
24 overlay a map showing the distribution
25 of Ohio's prime soils, it is

1 unbelievable that over 90 percent of
2 the solar project approved or being
3 considered in Ohio are located in areas
4 recognized as prime farmland by the
5 USDA.

6 It is shocking to me that anyone
7 can feel this judgment criteria.

8 Fountain Point is entirely on
9 prime farmland and designated U-1 in
10 the Comprehensive Plan.

11 The staff supports 369 public
12 comments. Staff recommends the
13 board -- recommends to the board that
14 public input received for the project
15 represents varied interest rather than
16 a prominent compelling one-sided
17 opposition.

18 The 21 comments by the elected
19 officials not considered participants
20 in the case, formal petitions, and the
21 remaining 338 were general interest.

22 Regarding the elected officials, 4
23 were in support. 2 of these comments
24 were general support of solar
25 development by 2 county commissioners

1 in November of 2021 before the Fountain
2 Point application had been submitted.

3 13 days after the first public
4 meeting revealed this project to the
5 county, both commissioners wrote
6 letters of opposition rescinding their
7 previous petitions and both voted to
8 restrict the county in Senate Bill 52
9 voted to enter the case as Intervenor
10 and voted to enter an additional board
11 letter to reinforce that opposition.

12 One of the other 2 was an unsigned
13 and -- was unsigned and not an item
14 that was ever brought to a vote before
15 the Village of West Mansfield, the
16 supposed author. So, we were down to 1
17 specifically named in the staff report,
18 Bokescreek trustee, Larry Mouser.

19 In opposition, we have 3
20 state-level officials and 39 township
21 trustees for 13 townships in Logan
22 County for a total of 42 to 1. 98
23 percent opposition by elected
24 officials, plus the intervention by the
25 Logan County commissioners and the

1 Rushcreek Township trustees, the only 2
2 governmental bodies legally eligible to
3 enter into the case. Seems quite
4 compelling to me.

5 The petition supporting the
6 project, which the staff report
7 indicated contained hundreds of
8 signatures in fact contained 219
9 signatures, so technically correct.

10 The 3 petitions in opposition
11 contained 833 signatures or 79.2
12 percent of the petition signatures. I
13 certainly feel that this is prominent
14 and compelling and I consider 80
15 percent very one sided. As a side
16 note, one of those petitions had 119
17 signatures from Bokescreek Township
18 specifically requesting your board to
19 consider them actually as a replacement
20 for their elected body since that body
21 was legally not able to represent their
22 constituents due to conflict of
23 interest issues. So much for one
24 elected official so prominently
25 identified in the staff report.

1 MS. SEE: You have less than 30
2 seconds.

3 MR. WOLEVER: Of the 338 general
4 interests, 45 were in support. Among
5 the 393 opposition entries there were 3
6 of them that had 737 for a total of 127
7 individual letters in opposition to 45.
8 96 percent.

9 In summary, environmental can be
10 debated until something bad happens.
11 Continued agricultural viability is
12 obviously in jeopardy and strictly
13 violates land use designations --

14 MS. SEE: Mr. Wolever --

15 MR. WOLEVER: -- but the prominent
16 compelling and one-sided opposition --

17 MS. SEE: Mr. Wolever, you --

18 MR. WOLEVER: -- indicates
19 clearly --

20 MS. SEE: -- are out of time.

21 MR. WOLEVER: -- does not satisfy
22 public interest.

23 MS. SEE: You are out of time.

24 I am going to remind you, everyone
25 is limited to 5 minutes. We still have

1 a lot of people who have signed up to
2 offer testimony. I ask that you
3 respect the time limit.

4 Raise your right hand, sir.

5 COLE WOLEVER

6 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
7 tell the truth, testified as follows:

8 MS. SEE: State and spell your
9 name for the record.

10 MR. WOLEVER: Cole Wolever,
11 W-O-L-E-V-E-R.

12 MS. SEE: State your address.

13 MR. WOLEVER: 1647 Township Road
14 145, Zanesfield, Ohio.

15 MS. SEE: Are you a party to this
16 case?

17 MR. WOLEVER: No.

18 MS. SEE: And do you live or work
19 in the project area?

20 MR. WOLEVER: No, I do not.

21 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead.

22 MR. WOLEVER: My name is Cole
23 Wolever. I live in Perry Township. My
24 parents live in Rushcreek Township.
25 I'm in opposition of the Fountain Solar

1 Project.

2 Over the years we hear a lot about
3 climate change, global warming, and how
4 that cause food shortages worldwide and
5 that we need to use renewable energy to
6 save the planet.

7 If climate changes were to cause
8 food shortages, why would we encourage
9 the taking of prime farmland to cover
10 it with solar panels that are
11 inefficient and not manufactured in the
12 United States?

13 This project will cost millions, a
14 lot of that money going to China in the
15 buying of solar panels, and funded by
16 our tax dollars.

17 It seems to me a better use of
18 solar panels would be to put them on
19 marshalling grounds such as parking
20 lots, roofs, large shopping centers.

21 If you look at the total impact of
22 this project, it doesn't help our
23 community, it wastes money,
24 politically-motivated project. It
25 takes money away from potentially

1 developing other efficient and
2 technologies for green-energy
3 strategies.

4 Since Fountain Point wants prime
5 farmland, it negatively has an impact
6 on the continued agricultural viability
7 of the existing agricultural district
8 and it's given inefficiencies and
9 unreliable solar impact on the grid.

10 I am in opposition of this
11 project. It does not satisfy the
12 public interest.

13 That's all.

14 MS. SEE: Any cross-examination?

15 MS. PARCELS: No.

16 MS. SEE: Thank you, sir.

17 Mr. Roberts?

18 Jerry Regula? I think I just
19 butchered your last name.

20 Step forward and be prepared to
21 offer testimony after Mr. Roberts.

22 Mr. Roberts, raise your right hand.

23 A.J. ROBERTS

24 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
25 tell the truth, testified as follows:

1 MS. SEE: State and spell your
2 name for the record and also give us
3 your address.

4 MR. ROBERTS: My name is A.J.
5 Roberts, R-O-B-E-R-T-S. My address is
6 2180 County Road 12, Bellefontaine,
7 Ohio.

8 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
9 case?

10 MR. ROBERTS: No.

11 MS. SEE: And do you live or work
12 in the project area?

13 MR. ROBERTS: Yes.

14 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
15 your testimony.

16 MR. ROBERTS: As I said, my name
17 is A.J. Roberts. I live on County Road
18 12, 2 miles from here. I grew up about
19 3 miles from here.

20 My family had a small dairy farm.
21 I graduated from this very high school.
22 I lived in Logan County. It's been my
23 home basically my entire life.

24 I own and operate a small
25 contracting business which has been in

1 this community for about 15 years.

2 Over the past years I have become
3 aware of the proposed construction
4 project related to solar energy
5 production, and like many others I
6 have some concerns, not only about
7 their efficacy and their benefit to
8 Logan County but also about the
9 possible negative impacts the
10 construction could have on my
11 community, its natural resources,
12 wildlife, fertile farmland, and not
13 least of which property values.

14 One area I'm particularly
15 concerned about is ground water
16 quality, my family's drinking water.
17 That's my wife and we have 4 small
18 children. As well as many of my
19 neighbors, our drinking water comes
20 from artesian springs which someone
21 else mentioned. Basically, this water
22 just flows continually out of the
23 ground and comes from aquifers, and as
24 I understand it, they basically are fed
25 from rain water, so any rain water

1 run-off that would come running off an
2 industrial site would basically have a
3 fast track into my water well which
4 means my family and I would drink it.

5 These aquifers feed a lot of
6 streams and creeks in the area as well
7 as the large watershed nature preserve
8 that's only maybe 4 or 5 miles from
9 here. There's the Big Darby Headwaters
10 Hiking Trails. My family and I hike
11 there often and we have often read the
12 little placards that they have there to
13 our kids which detail the unique and
14 delicate ecosystems that exist there.
15 I just can't help but wonder how these
16 areas would be impacted possibly
17 negatively by the construction of a
18 nearly 4,000-acre industrial solar
19 plant.

20 As a local small business owner, I
21 have to be acutely aware of how my
22 business practices relate to and affect
23 my community at large and I'm curious
24 if Invenergy has those same things in
25 mind. They are not based in Logan

1 County or even in the State of Ohio and
 2 therefore I have to assume or I cannot
 3 assume nor have them proven to me in
 4 any meaningful way that they have the
 5 best interests of Logan County, its
 6 residents, and its unique natural
 7 resources in mind.

8 For this reason, I'm strongly
 9 opposed to the Fountain Point Solar
 10 Project as I would be any large-scale
 11 industrial construction project which
 12 has failed to demonstrate its necessity
 13 in either form or function to this
 14 community. Thank you.

15 MS. SEE: Any cross?

16 MS. PARCELS: No.

17 MS. SEE: Thank you very much,
 18 Mr. Roberts.

19 Ms. Kim Freeman, come down to be
 20 prepared to offer testimony after
 21 Mr. Regula.

22 Mr. Regula, please raise your
 23 right hand.

24 JERRY REGULA

25 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to

1 tell the truth, testified as follows:

2 MS. SEE: Mr. Regula, please state
3 and spell your name and also state your
4 address.

5 MR. REGULA: Jerry Regula,
6 J-E-R-R-Y, R-E-G-U-L-A, 2796 Road 142
7 North, West Mansfield, Ohio.

8 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
9 the project area?

10 MR. REGULA: Yes.

11 MS. SEE: Are you a party to this
12 case?

13 MR. REGULA: No.

14 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
15 testimony.

16 MR. REGULA: I'm a landowner that
17 is signed up for this deal. For me
18 it's a business decision.

19 In the next 10 years there will be
20 10 or 20 percent of these people
21 sitting here today will own an electric
22 car. Where is it going to come from?
23 You have to start somewhere.

24 That's all I have got to say.

25 MS. SEE: Any cross?

1 MS. PARCELS: Mr. Regula, which
2 township are you in?

3 MR. REGULA: West Mansfield.

4 MS. SEE: Jeanne Marmon, come down
5 and be prepared to give testimony.

6 Ms. Freeman, raise your right
7 hand.

8 KIM FREEMAN

9 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
10 tell the truth, testified as follows:

11 MS. SEE: State and spell your
12 name and also state your address.

13 MS. FREEMAN: Kimberly Freeman,
14 140 North Dean Street, West Mansfield,
15 Ohio.

16 MS. SEE: Your address?

17 MS. FREEMAN: 140 North Dean
18 Street, Mansfield, Ohio.

19 MS. SEE: I had a moment there.
20 Are you a party to the case?

21 MS. FREEMAN: No.

22 MS. SEE: Okay. Do you live or
23 work in the project area?

24 MS. FREEMAN: Yes.

25 MS. FREEMAN: Go ahead with your

1 testimony. My name is Kim Freeman and
2 I am a resident of Bokescreek Township
3 and reside in the Village of West
4 Mansfield with my family.

5 I am opposed to solar farms lining
6 the main highway entering my home town.
7 It would be devastating to have so many
8 opposing voices that are directly
9 affected by this decision be ignored.

10 I implore you to think of the
11 residents of the community that will be
12 affected and respectfully request that
13 you do not develop solar farms in the
14 county where my family and I have
15 chosen to reside and work for our
16 entire life. Thank you.

17 MS. SEE: Cross?

18 MS. PARCELS: No.

19 MS. SEE: Thank you very much.

20 Brian Terrill, come down to be prepared
21 to give testimony.

22 Ms. Marmon?

23 MS. MARMON: Yes.

24 MS. SEE: Raise your right hand.

25 JEANNE MARMON

1 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
2 tell the truth, testified as follows:

3 MS. SEE: State and spell your
4 name for the record.

5 MS. MARMON: Jeanne, J-E-A-N-N-E,
6 Marmon, M-A-R-M-O-N, 8043, State Road
7 47 East, Bellefontaine.

8 MS. SEE: Are you a party to this
9 case?

10 MS. MARMON: No.

11 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
12 the project area?

13 MS. MARMON: Just close. Not in
14 it.

15 MS. SEE: Do you have any idea
16 what township you live in?

17 MS. MARMON: Rushcreek.

18 MS. SEE: All right. Thank you.
19 Go ahead with your testimony.

20 MS. MARMON: Okay. My name is
21 Jeanne Roberts Marmon. I'm a life-long
22 resident and land owner of Logan County
23 in Rushcreek Township. I grew up a
24 family farm girl just a couple miles up
25 the road from here on a dairy and grain

1 farm. I fed calves, raked hay, and
2 milked cows. Those black and white
3 cows allowed my parents to afford to
4 gift me a college education.

5 The sights, the smells, the
6 experiences, the memories made me who I
7 am today.

8 Years later I'm a parent, a grand
9 parent, and retired school teacher. I
10 currently live down the road from the
11 schools on 5 acres.

12 I also own a portion of the old
13 family farm. I lived like most of the
14 girls here, surrounded by corn and bean
15 and hay fields and the woods. The
16 woods. The wildlife, an occasional
17 glimpse of an eagle or a flock of crows
18 and buzzards riding the air waves is
19 special to me.

20 I don't milk cows anymore or rake
21 hay but I do an awful lot of sitting on
22 my front porch. I watch. I listen. I
23 breathe the aroma of the active
24 flourishing farm across the road. I
25 see the deer and the turkeys scampering

1 about. I anticipate the new crops of
2 beans or corn popping up through the
3 soil. I notice the change in colors of
4 the trees and of the crops. I hear the
5 grumbling of the farmer's equipment as
6 he prepares and harvests his crop. I
7 smell the aroma of the soil after a
8 much-needed summer shower. I feel the
9 harsh winter winds blowing the snow and
10 swirls across the cold hillside.

11 I'm content and happy, but many of
12 my friends and neighbors may not have
13 this experience in the future. Earlier
14 this summer I had a shocking experience
15 while driving into Union County. I
16 thought I was encountering something
17 like entering an ecological apocalypse.
18 This was my first face-to-face visual
19 of a solar complex. Was this what my
20 neighbors in Rushcreek and Bokescreek
21 County Township and Logan County might
22 like look in the future? I was sadly
23 shocked.

24 Like many others tonight, I have
25 nothing to gain in this war -- in this

1 solar complex.

2 However, the solar developers are
3 trying to get rich off of good
4 neighbors by pushing an experiment that
5 might only be 20 percent efficient.

6 The solar complex quotes might
7 just sell off the current bond
8 contracts if things don't work out, but
9 the concrete and steel will already be
10 in the ground. The trees will have
11 already been bulldozed away. The deer,
12 the turkeys, and other wildlife have
13 been forced to find new places to live.

14 The beauty in the surrounding of
15 thousands of acres of Rushcreek and
16 Bokecreek Townships will be forever
17 destroyed.

18 Only solar complex folks have made
19 glowing promises that they will be
20 there to help dismantle and restore the
21 countryside if necessary.

22 I fear at this stage of the game
23 that the damage will already have been
24 done.

25 Can our beautiful land, calm

1 landscapes, ever be restored to
2 original state? I think not.

3 Will they ever look anything like
4 what you drove by this evening coming
5 to this meeting? Oh, but they
6 promised.

7 To borrow the words of Hal David
8 and good old Burt Bacharach from the
9 song Promises, Promises, it says: You
10 make me promises, promises you knew
11 you'd never keep. Promises, promises.
12 Why do I believe all of your promises?

13 In closing, please feel free to
14 sit on your porch or look out your
15 front window and ask yourself the
16 following question: Will the solar
17 complex allow you to smell, to hear, to
18 feel or to see the Logan County you
19 want and are you going to enjoy it?
20 Thank you.

21 MS. SEE: Thank you.

22 Any cross?

23 MS. PARCELS: No.

24 MS. SEE: Thank you very much.

25 Steve Sch -- S-C-H -- resides at

1 3691 Township Road?

2 MR. SCHLUMBOHM: Schlumbohm.

3 MS. SEE: Mr. Schlumbohm, please
4 come down and be ready to give
5 testimony after this witness.

6 Mr. Terrill?

7 MR. TERRILL: Yes.

8 MS. SEE: Please raise your right
9 hand.

10 BRIAN TERRILL

11 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
12 tell the truth, testified as follows:

13 MS. SEE: State and spell your
14 name for the record and give us your
15 address.

16 Brian Terrill, B-R-I-A-N,
17 T-E-R-R-I-L-L, 5842 County Road 48,
18 Rushsylvania. We have live in both
19 Bokescreek and Rushcreek Township.

20 MS. SEE: Okay. Are you a party
21 to this proceeding?

22 MR. TERRILL: No.

23 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
24 testimony.

25 MR. TERRILL: Every day to and

1 work I drive 25 minutes to northwestern
2 Union County where a lot of people have
3 referenced. Imagine Arlington Cemetery
4 but instead of graves you have posts.
5 For the last 6 to 8 months I have seen
6 this like a movie, like a picture book
7 that a second grader or first grader
8 sees when they flip through it and how
9 fast these areas have metamorphosized
10 into basically an agrarian area looking
11 like tin cans which with jackhammers
12 that blew holes into the ground and
13 farmers who have referenced the tile
14 problems. It's real.

15 They don't go through a
16 checkerboard field to find the tile and
17 then replace those occasional tile that
18 are hit.

19 They basically jackhammer the
20 entire field with GPS, line them up
21 nice and perfect, okay. They have no
22 intentions of replacing those tiles,
23 fixing those tiles. I'm not even sure
24 how practical it is for them to even
25 try to do that with the way they have

1 already done what they have done.

2 The future drainage issues in
3 those areas is going to be massive.
4 Why are we doing this in the midwest?
5 Why are we doing this in some of the
6 best farmland in the world? We have
7 the highest grocery prices in the
8 history of the United States. Why now?

9 I had an ignorant person who I
10 talked to about a month ago say: Well,
11 we don't eat that kind of corn so it's
12 not going to affect grocery prices.
13 Anyone back behind me knows that I'm
14 unaware of a single type of livestock
15 that's not fed corn, so it's a simple 1
16 plus 1 equals 2. If corn prices go up,
17 meat prices go up. Acreage goes down,
18 prices go up. On and on and on.

19 You don't have to be Albert
20 Einstein to figure out that this is an
21 absolute idiotic path.

22 Now, some basic scientific
23 numbers. Basic efficiencies of
24 renewable and non-renewable energy:
25 Winds, only 15 to 20 percent efficiency

1 rates. Not very efficient. They don't
2 take up as much acreage as solar. Then
3 you have clean coal, 40 percent, 40
4 percent efficiency rate; natural gas,
5 60 percent efficiency rates. Nuclear.
6 Europe has discovered them. America
7 has barely discovered nuclear. 92
8 percent efficiency rates. Only solar
9 is the worst option to wind. Wind is
10 15 to 20. Solar is rated at 10 to 15,
11 10 to 15 percent efficiency rate.

12 We have eaten over a million acres
13 of farmland in the midwest for solar in
14 the last four years. It's a great
15 idea.

16 Basic things that we need to
17 consider. The tile drainage issue eats
18 up the most farmland acreage. It kills
19 wildlife habitats. 7- to 10-foot
20 fences. What are the deer going to do?

21 I'm 53 years old. The difference
22 between the amount of acreage of
23 woodlands in this state now just in my
24 lifetime is disgusting how few
25 woodlands are left.

1 Now we're going to basically
2 prevent natural habitats from traveling
3 from Point A to Point B to Point C. We
4 protect a lot of things in this
5 country: Bald eagle. We protect
6 native burial grounds. I think it's
7 smart for Ohio to protect its top
8 industry, agricultural.

9 MS. SEE: Any cross?

10 MS. PARCELS: No.

11 MS. SEE: Thank you.

12 How do you pronounce your last
13 name, sir?

14 MR. SCHLUMBOHM: Schlumbohm.

15 MS. SEE: Marcella Rostorfer, come
16 forward to offer your testimony after
17 Mr. Schlumbohm.

18 Raise your right hand,
19 Mr. Schlumbohm.

20 STEVE SCHLUMBOHM

21 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
22 tell the truth, testified as follows:

23 MS. SEE: State and spell your
24 name for the record and provide us your
25 address and tell us whether you're a

1 party to the case.

2 MR. SCHLUMBOHM: Steve Schlumbohm,
3 S-C-H-L-U-M-B-O-H-M. My address is
4 3691 Township Road 205, DeGraff, Ohio.

5 MS. SEE: Are you a party to the
6 case?

7 MR. SCHLUMBOHM: No.

8 MS. SEE: Do you live over or work
9 in the project area?

10 MR. SCHLUMBOHM: No.

11 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
12 your testimony.

13 MR. SCHLUMBOHM: I'm blessed to be
14 a third-generation farmer born and
15 raised in Logan County. I love what I
16 do and where I live. Furthermore, I'm
17 a patriot who loves my country.

18 Preserving farmland is a crucial
19 part of leaving a legacy in my
20 business. Our farmland is a national
21 treasure. There is no nation on earth
22 that has the combination of land and
23 environment to produce such a large
24 volume of aggregate products.

25 It's a national security issue not

1 to be taken lightly. It's also an
2 economic and environmental issue.

3 Our government is not placing a
4 high value on traditional production.
5 Taking thousands of acres permanently
6 out of production with solar panels is
7 an example of that foolish philosophy.

8 Ohio is the eighth cloudiest state
9 in the union. That means 42 states
10 have more sunshine than we do. Ohio
11 has 72 sunny days, 293 cloudy, and 20
12 percent sunny, and 80 percent cloudy.

13 Why would you want to go build
14 solar panels in this environment?

15 Congress just passed a bill which
16 has billions of dollars earmarked for
17 uneconomical wind and solar projects.
18 They must be subsidized by the
19 government to be built.

20 The money is then awarded to
21 individual companies to build solar
22 projects that cost an estimated
23 \$500,000 for each acre.

24 Fountain point claims that 103,000
25 steel piles will be driven into the

1 ground, 31 miles of transmission cable
2 buried, and 675,000 monocrystalline
3 solar panels put in place. These
4 panels contain many rare earth metals
5 that are mined and purchased and
6 assembled in foreign countries.

7 What will the future of this land
8 be in 20 years if the panels no longer
9 work? What is the cost to replace them
10 or remove them? This is not an a
11 environmentally sound policy. It is
12 not a picture of a Green New Deal. I
13 want to propose an old green new deal.

14 Recently I hosted at my farm top
15 fuel executives from a major airline
16 company a refinery that produces jet
17 fuel for them and a major aggregate
18 company that produces soybean oil.
19 They came to explore where their future
20 fuel source is coming from. Their fuel
21 is currently petroleum based. They
22 want to lower their carbon footprint.

23 So, they are launching a new
24 process in their refinery next month
25 that will change the molecular

1 structure of soy oil to the same
2 qualities of diesel fuel so that it
3 will burn directly in a diesel engine
4 on a one-to-one scale.

5 The next phase of converting solar
6 a gallon of soy oil to a gallon of jet
7 fuel is coming soon, still on an
8 efficient one-to-one scale.

9 The carbon intensity score for the
10 renewable fuels is one half of the
11 petroleum grade fuel.

12 Over 100 gallons of the diesel or
13 jet fuel can be produced on each acre.
14 Annually we burn 14 billion gallons of
15 jet fuel and 30 billion gallons of
16 diesel, so every acre possible is
17 needed to produce fuel for this new
18 market. There are no jet planes
19 operating with solar panels.

20 In the food versus fuel debate,
21 these company executives were very
22 supportive of regenerative agriculture.
23 They wanted to see no-till production
24 and green cover crops growing in my
25 fields.

1 You have the choice to produce
2 food or fuel in a field of corn or
3 beans, but neither can be produced with
4 solar fields. They said there is no
5 food or fuel for jets or diesel engines
6 produced with solar panel fields.
7 Their view was that the soil panels in
8 farmland were neither regenerative nor
9 green.

10 Renewable fuels not only reduce
11 the propensity on fossil fuels but also
12 create jobs. Many jobs connected with
13 the input supply chain to grow corn and
14 beans as well as jobs in processing
15 plants for the harvested crops. This
16 is a good thing for Main Street
17 America.

18 It is vital to the prosperity of
19 our local communities every year.

20 MS. SEE: Sir, you have 30
21 seconds.

22 MR. SCHLUMBOHM: For solar fields,
23 once the initial construction is
24 finished, just a few jobs remain in
25 maintenance and mowing weeds.

1 In closing, the east windows of
2 our kitchen overlook a beautiful, lush,
3 green valley. The words we placed
4 above this in spring view state "God
5 saw all He had made and behold it was
6 very good. Genesis 1:31. We need to
7 be good stewards of that land.

8 We will regret replacing farmland
9 with solar panels. We must not wipe
10 out our food and fuel sources, our
11 treasured farmland. Thank you.

12 MS. SEE: Thank you very much.
13 Karla Kauffman, you can step forward
14 and be prepared to give your testimony.

15 Ms. Rostorfer?

16 MS. ROSTORFER: Yes.

17 MS. ROSTORFER: Raise your right
18 hand.

19 MARCELLA ROSTORFER

20 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
21 tell the truth, testified as follows:

22 MS. SEE: State and spell your
23 name and state your address please.

24 MS. ROSTORFER: Marcella
25 Rostorfer, M-A-R-C-E-L-L-A,

1 R-O-S-T-O-R-F-E-R, 3639 County Road 20,
2 Rushsylvania.

3 MS. SEE: Are you a party to this
4 case?

5 MS. ROSTORFER: No.

6 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
7 the project area?

8 MS. ROSTORFER: No. We live near.
9 I live close.

10 MS. SEE: Go ahead and give your
11 testimony.

12 MS. ROSTORFER: As a property
13 owner, I would like to lend my support
14 to the property owners who have signed
15 on in support of the decision. As he
16 mentioned, it is a business decision.
17 I do appreciate and respect the
18 opposition's right to voice their
19 opinion. However, how does the
20 opposition of this project align with
21 the idea of life, liberty, and freedom?

22 Should property owners not be free
23 to determine what they do with their
24 property as long as it's within the
25 limits of the law.

1 In addition tonight, we have heard
2 many people say they're not getting
3 anything from this program. The
4 program offers payment in lieu of
5 taxes. The project increases funding
6 to our schools. It increases funding
7 to our EMS, our firefighters. It also
8 offers jobs both in construction and
9 long-term careers in this evolving
10 technology.

11 As the gentleman before me spoke
12 in support of this project, these
13 careers are what's going to be our
14 future. Whether we like it or not,
15 we're going to battery cars and we will
16 evolve and we need to be a part of this
17 growth.

18 I do want to thank you guys for
19 your time. My comment is brief. I
20 know my voice is not part of the vocal
21 minority. It's part of the silent
22 majority. Thank you for your time.

23 MS. SEE: Thank you for your time.

24 Cross?

25 MS. PARCELS: No.

1 MS. SEE: Thank you very much.

2 Victoria Maddox, step forward to
3 give your testimony.

4 Ms. Kauffman, are you ready?

5 KARLA KAUFFMAN

6 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
7 tell the truth, testified as follows:

8 MS. SEE: Please state and spell
9 your name for the record.

10 MS. KAUFFMAN: Karla Kauffman,
11 K-A-R-L-A, K-A-U-F-F-M-A-N.

12 MS. SEE: Also state your address.

13 MS. KAUFFMAN: 6492 Township Road
14 192, West Liberty.

15 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
16 the project area?

17 MS. KAUFFMAN: No.

18 MS. SEE: Are you a party to this
19 case?

20 MS. KAUFFMAN: No.

21 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
22 testimony.

23 MS. KAUFFMAN: I grew up on County
24 Road 2 and I'm a Ben Logan graduate. I
25 appreciate the Power Siting Board

1 coming up to Logan County during the
2 holiday season to hear from our
3 community.

4 I'm part of the group of Logan
5 County residents who do support solar
6 farms. We are concerned about the
7 environment and excited about the
8 significant income which can help Logan
9 County. We think solar farms are
10 necessary to meet future energy needs.
11 Our group doesn't include any
12 landowners involved. None of us will
13 get any benefits financially other than
14 any other Logan County resident.

15 We wrote, circulated, and
16 submitted a petition with over 200
17 signatures to the county commissioners
18 and Power Siting Board this fall. The
19 petition supports Fountain Point and
20 other proposed solar projects in Logan
21 County.

22 Other folks in our group are going
23 to comment after me. We prepared some
24 slides showing you how we understand
25 the issue.

1 This sun is our main visual. Sean
2 Morgan drew it. Sean is over there.
3 He lives in Bellefontaine. He's not a
4 Ben Logan student. We go to the same
5 church. That's how I know him.

6 I know people who support solar
7 but are uncomfortable with panels on
8 farmland. I heard that this evening as
9 well.

10 I personally do support using
11 farmland for several reasons.

12 I don't know how to use this
13 thing.

14 Okay. So, we heard about Logan
15 County's farmland being taken up with
16 this, and as far as I know, 5 years ago
17 over 200,000 acres were farmed in Logan
18 County. The three projects that we're
19 aware of total 10,000 acres. That's
20 around 5 percent of the total farmland.
21 That's not the hills and trees and
22 forests. That's just the farmland that
23 are proposed for this.

24 Fountain Point itself would use
25 less than 2 percent of Logan County's

1 farmland. Also, significant acreage in
2 western Logan County has been set aside
3 as farmland, and we don't think that
4 the rural quality of our county will
5 change with this amount of solar
6 fields.

7 Also, there will be no more large
8 solar farms installed in Logan County
9 because of local work on that issue
10 regarding what Senate Bill 52 allows
11 for local residents to have input on.

12 My second reason for supporting it
13 is soil health, and I respectfully am
14 disagreeing with other residents of the
15 county. I think there will be less
16 pesticides and herbicides into the soil
17 and waterways. Animals and weeds will
18 have a better chance of good health.

19 Soil can rest from constant
20 production. Most of the farmland
21 proposed is now growing field corn and
22 soybeans.

23 My third reason is solar power
24 produces energy more efficiently than
25 other sources. Speaking of field corn

1 and soybeans -- I'm just learning about
2 soil oil tonight -- 70 percent of field
3 corn is used to make ethanol and feed
4 animals which is a very inefficient way
5 to get food for us.

6 Ethanol takes about 1 1/2 times as
7 energy to produce as it produces. So,
8 I support farmers who want to harness
9 the sun's energy.

10 My fourth reason is the food
11 supply will not be hurt with solar in
12 fields, especially given the corn and
13 bean production which is the main focus
14 of a lot of these fields.

15 This is a photo of sheep in a
16 field, in a solar field, in upstate New
17 York. I saw this in action in Colorado
18 but my photo didn't take to this format
19 very well. There definitely can be
20 sheep in solar fields. People are also
21 growing vegetables among the panels.

22 MS. SEE: You have 30 seconds.

23 MS. KAUFFMAN: Wildlife reservists
24 are looking to place quails and
25 pheasants as well.

1 Solar produces energy with less
2 inconvenience. I don't have time to go
3 into that.

4 Solar roofs -- my biggest reason
5 is that solar roofs, even if every roof
6 had solar on it would not be enough --
7 would not produce enough energy to meet
8 the coming demands.

9 Regarding subsidizing solar --

10 MS. SEE: Ma'am, you are out of
11 time.

12 MS. KAUFFMAN: Thank you.

13 MS. SEE: Ms. Maddox?

14 Susan Seeley?

15 Susan Seeley, step forward and be
16 prepared to offer testimony after
17 Ms. Maddox.

18 Ms. Maddox, will you raise your
19 right hand?

20 VICTORIA MADDUX

21 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
22 tell the truth, testified as follows:

23 MS. SEE: State and spell your
24 name for the record and state your
25 address.

1 MS. MADDUX: Victoria Maddox,
2 V-I-C-T-O-R-I-A, M-A-D-D-O-X, 556 East
3 High Avenue, Apartment 2,
4 Bellefontaine.

5 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
6 the project area?

7 MS. MADDUX: No.

8 MS. SEE: Are you a party to this
9 case?

10 MS. MADDUX: No.

11 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
12 testimony.

13 MS. MADDUX: My name is Victoria
14 Maddox. I'm a resident of Logan
15 County. I'm here to speak in support
16 of the Fountain Point Solar Energy
17 Center.

18 Now, I don't know if you can tell,
19 but I'm young. Because of my youth I
20 have spent my entire life looking
21 towards the future. That's why I'm
22 here today.

23 Within the next seven years there
24 is 10 coal plants planning to shut
25 down: Three in June of '23, two by the

1 of 2023, and five more when the money
2 from the Ohio government runs out in
3 2030.

4 In addition, though, two nuclear
5 power plants that are receiving the
6 same subsidies from their government
7 from House Bill 6, and when that money
8 runs out we can look at those plants
9 closing as well. Now, we can see this
10 as a problem or we can see it as an
11 opportunity.

12 If we allow solar into Logan
13 County, not only would it be great for
14 our schools and local economy, but it
15 would also show the rest of Ohio that
16 we are looking to the future.

17 More and more coal plants are
18 going to end up being shut down within
19 the next few decades. What's our
20 back-up?

21 I feel having a strong solar farm
22 up and running that will be operational
23 for the next 40 years is a very strong
24 start.

25 Solar is not only clean energy but

1 unless someone is going to blow up the
2 sun, it's not a finite resource like
3 coal, oil, or natural gas.

4 Utilizing it doesn't destroy the
5 environment like drilling. It doesn't
6 pollute our air like coal and oil does.
7 The land can be returned to farming
8 afterwards and we will obtain useful
9 soil farm and there will be reduced
10 potash getting into our waterways
11 creating problems like algae growth.

12 Not only is it bad for people but
13 also means that counties like ours can
14 generate our own electric without
15 finding a gas or oil deposit.

16 Let's just take a look at ball
17 park range down in Florida. It was a
18 well-thought out community situated 12
19 miles northeast of Fort Myers. This
20 community was built around solar power
21 and the lights never went out.

22 The community easily weathered the
23 cat 5 hurricane while watching
24 television.

25 While we don't have hurricanes

1 here, having a stable electricity
2 source can only ever be a good thing.
3 Make no mistake, this project is a good
4 thing for our youth, for our health,
5 for our pocket books, and most
6 importantly for our future.

7 In fact, we have a couple on video
8 who is looking towards a potential
9 future here in Logan County.

10 (Playing slide show)

11 MS. MADDUX: Thank you for your
12 time.

13 MS. SEE: The individuals you just
14 showed on the screen, is that you?

15 MS. MADDUX: I was asked to
16 represent them.

17 MS. SEE: Is that a yes or no?

18 MS. MADDUX: No.

19 MS. SEE: Is that couple here
20 present?

21 MS. MADDUX: No.

22 MR. LUTTMER: I am here.

23 MS. SEE: And that is your
24 testimony?

25 MR. LUTTMER: Yes.

1 MS. SEE: Your name is?

2 MR. LUTTMER: My name is Brent
3 Luttmer.

4 MS. SEE: And who is that with
5 you?

6 MR. LUTTMER: That is Sara Seeley.

7 MS. SEE: And you did make this
8 video that we just heard?

9 MR. LUTTMER: Yes.

10 MS. SEE: Okay.

11 Can you now raise your hand and
12 acknowledge that everything you just
13 stated is true?

14 MR. LUTTMER: It is true, yes.

15 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
16 the project area?

17 MR. LUTTMER: I live close to it.

18 MS. SEE: State your address.

19 MR. LUTTMER: My current address
20 is 2971 Deckebach in Cincinnati, Ohio.
21 I'm going to school there. I'm in an
22 apartment currently.

23 My home address is 3415 State
24 Route 54, Bellefontaine, Ohio.

25 MS. SEE: You don't presently live

1 in the area?

2 MR. LUTTMER: No.

3 MS. SEE: In the project area?

4 MR. LUTTMER: Not currently. My
5 permanent address is in Bellefontaine.

6 MS. SEE: Okay. Is there any
7 cross for either of these witnesses?

8 Everyone needs to be here and
9 offer testimony in their own behalf.
10 You cannot represent that you're
11 offering testimony for someone else.

12 MS. MADDUX: I apologize. I
13 wasn't aware.

14 MS. SEE: That's okay.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ma'am, may
16 I ask you a question, just one
17 question?

18 MS. SEE: No. This is not time
19 for questions.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I was
21 instructed that you weren't allowed to
22 use any type of material, you weren't
23 allowed to bring any signs --

24 MS. SEE: Thank you very much.
25 Unless you're offering testimony, I'm

1 not going to entertain questions at
2 this point.

3 You were advised that it's not a
4 question and answer session.

5 Ms. Seeley.

6 Kim Avery, step forward and be
7 prepared to offer testimony.

8 Ms. Seeley, raise your right hand.

9 KIM AVERY

10 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
11 tell the truth, testified as follows:

12 MS. SEE: State and spell your
13 name for the record.

14 MS. SEELEY: Susan Seeley,
15 S-U-S-A-N, S-E-E-L-E-Y.

16 MS. SEE: Please provide us your
17 address.

18 MS. SEELEY: 7999 County Road 2,
19 Zanesfield.

20 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
21 case?

22 MS. SEELEY: No.

23 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
24 the project area?

25 MS. SEELEY: No. I live near the

1 project area.

2 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
3 your testimony.

4 MS. SEELEY: Okay. My name is
5 Susan Seeley. We heard a lot tonight
6 that there is nothing for this county,
7 resident of this county, from the solar
8 project. That is not true.

9 We need the money from this solar
10 project for this school. It's over a
11 million dollars a year that will come
12 from Fountain Point for 40 years.
13 That's even hard to wrap your mind
14 around.

15 This is a million dollars. What
16 does that look like for many years? I
17 will tell what you 4 million dollars
18 looks likes. This is a community
19 center built by the Lincoln Local
20 Schools in Manor, Ohio. It's a
21 state-of-the-art athletic facility for
22 the students and it's also a community
23 center for everybody in their county.

24 Their next project is going to be
25 an extension of your school that costs

1 55 million dollars from the solar
2 project.

3 To me, what 40 million dollars
4 looks like for this school is our kids
5 can graduate with the skills that
6 follow their dreams.

7 This is a nice school. It's a
8 great auditorium. This is not the
9 school I graduated from. I graduated
10 from that school. It was falling down.
11 It was 100 years old. It was decrepit.

12 People sacrificed at that time to
13 make this school that we're sitting in
14 now and they did it while increasing
15 their property taxes. Now it's a real
16 commitment for some of the farms that
17 were big and small.

18 To stay competitive, our school
19 needs the Fountain Point money. The
20 Fountain Point money will allow us not
21 to have to raise property taxes and
22 this benefit every single person in the
23 school district.

24 Having high-quality schools, low
25 property taxes, that increases property

1 values.

2 Do the solar farms really pay off?
3 I heard they don't. I called
4 Mr. Bacon, the Hardin County auditor,
5 and I asked him about his Invenergy
6 project which has been in the ground
7 since last February and he says they
8 paid up in January.

9 Hardin County got over a million
10 dollars, half a million dollars in
11 January, half in July, from the solar
12 project Invenergy has in Hardin County.

13 There will be two more projects.
14 Union County is very similar. They're
15 taking 2.7 million dollars in solar
16 farm money.

17 We need the Fountain Point money.
18 It's for our public good. We need it
19 for the future generations of this
20 school.

21 Hardin County is taking the money.
22 Union County is taking the money, but
23 we will be left behind if don't take
24 the Fountain Point Solar Project money.

25 Our kids, when they do come home

1 like they just shared, and they're
2 coming home in June, need this school
3 to be as good as it can possibly be.
4 Otherwise, our kids will make their
5 first home not in Logan County but in
6 Hardin County or Union County where the
7 schools and the communities have
8 benefited from the money.

9 We also need to take the money as
10 payment in lieu of taxes because it's
11 our only option to keep all of the
12 money as additional money and not as
13 replacement money for the school.

14 I get it. Change is hard. I live
15 on the same farm that I grew up on
16 after all these years. Change is hard.
17 It's hard to look at the corn and
18 soybeans and instead look at solar
19 panels. It's an adjustment.

20 You know what's also hard,
21 graduating from high school without the
22 skills to live up to your dreams?
23 That's also hard.

24 This school is 32 years old. Is
25 it good enough for the current

1 graduates? I think so. My daughter is
2 graduating from here.

3 Will it be good enough to educate
4 kids 30 years from now? No way. The
5 explosion in all the fields that there
6 are, the school will need more. These
7 kids will need more.

8 What do we sacrifice to take the
9 solar farm money? Our parents
10 sacrificed a lot. They sacrificed
11 property taxes. What do we sacrifice
12 if we take this money? We have to look
13 at the panels. Well, maybe we
14 sacrificed something in property
15 values. That's not at all been proven.

16 Research is very clear that
17 property values are driven by good
18 jobs, good schools, and good community
19 services. If you can have good schools
20 and good community services without
21 raising property taxes, that benefits
22 people's property values.

23 Also, people who live near it can
24 do setbacks and also do green barriers
25 to help with their property taxes.

1 Please support this project.

2 Thank you very much.

3 MS. SEE: Thank you very much.

4 Tom Seeley? Tom Seeley, please come up
5 and be ready to give testimony.

6 Ms. Avery, please raise your right
7 hand to give testimony.

8 KIM AVERY

9 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
10 tell the truth, testified as follows:

11 MS. SEE: State and spell your
12 name for the record and also state your
13 address.

14 MS. AVERY: Kim Avery, K-I-M
15 A-V-E-R-Y, 212 East Chillicothe Avenue,
16 Bellefontaine.

17 MS. SEE: Okay. Are you a party
18 in this case?

19 MS. AVERY: No.

20 MS. SEE: Do you live or reside in
21 the project area?

22 MS. AVERY: No.

23 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
24 your testimony.

25 MS. AVERY: I was born and raised

1 in Ohio. I have lived in big cities,
2 small towns, suburbs. I have been a
3 Logan County resident since 2011.

4 What I want for future generations
5 is the same opportunities that I had to
6 thrive. I now have the opportunity to
7 work from home so I can stay in this
8 area that I grew up to love.

9 My family has actually come closer
10 to home. I found out that my great
11 grandmother was actually born and
12 raised in Bellefontaine, so my roots
13 also run deep. It's a legacy.

14 My hope for a legacy is to leave
15 the world a better place than what I
16 found it. From Lakeview to West
17 Liberty and West Mansfield to
18 Logansville, we all share one thing.
19 We all want what's best for our whole
20 community.

21 I'm going to let others go into
22 specifics about the money set aside for
23 education, et cetera. This is just
24 kind of the 30,000 foot view. It's a
25 big, big complex with badly-needed

1 funds for the benefit of all.

2 The Logan County general fund will
3 get an estimated \$112,000 and that will
4 be earmarked for EMS, fire, police
5 services and another \$123,000 for MRDD
6 funding, \$90,000 for Children's
7 Services funding. Without this source
8 of income, where would those funds come
9 from? I don't believe there is anyone
10 in this county that can say those
11 businesses are not needed.

12 Public interest or a necessity?
13 The funds to expand services countywide
14 benefit the entire county. The revenue
15 is earmarked for specific uses.

16 It increases public safety. It
17 reduces the burden of the Bellefontaine
18 Fire Department to have to carry the
19 load for the entire county. Quicker
20 response time equals more lives saved.
21 It strengthens the entire region. It
22 attracts new businesses and offers new
23 opportunities. It retains homegrown
24 talent in all industries and in all
25 services.

1 It's an investment in our future.
2 No one likes bottom living. It spreads
3 the burden out evenly.

4 When we combine that with the
5 infrastructure bill money that's
6 already been passed by Congress, it
7 offers safer travel and it helps
8 mitigate frequent dangers like this one
9 section of West Mansfield that floods
10 every time it rains.

11 What do the people in Logan County
12 get out of this? A brighter future for
13 all of us.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. SEE: Any cross?

16 MS. PARCELS: Where are these
17 numbers coming from?

18 MS. AVERY: They're coming from --
19 they're from a funding spreadsheet that
20 I saw a week ago.

21 MS. PARCELS: These are not your
22 own calculations?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They are
24 calculations --

25 MS. SEE: Only the witness can

1 answer this question.

2 MS. AVERY: They are the
3 calculations that was provided to our
4 group. I did not personally calculate
5 them, no.

6 MS. PARCELS: Okay. They came
7 from a spreadsheet provided by who?

8 MS. AVERY: Susan Seeley.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have the
10 numbers.

11 MS. SEE: Only the witness may
12 speak.

13 MS. PARCELS: Is this coming from
14 the applicant? Is this estimate coming
15 from Fountain Point? This is not
16 coming from Rushcreek Township? This
17 is not coming from Logan County? It's
18 coming to you in your group from where?

19 MS. AVERY: From Bellefontaine I
20 believe.

21 MS. PARCELS: Did you take the
22 photo of the flooding outside West
23 Mansfield?

24 MS. AVERY: I don't know.

25 MS. PARCELS: You don't know where

1 that photo was taken or how it was
2 produced?

3 MS. AVERY: It was taken by
4 another member of the group. I don't
5 remember who it was.

6 MS. PARCELS: Nothing further.

7 MS. SEE: Any other
8 cross-examination?

9 Thank you very much.

10 Mr. Seeley, you're next.

11 Tom Moreland, please come down.

12 Mr. Seeley, raise your right hand.

13 THOMAS SEELEY

14 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
15 tell the truth, testified as follows:

16 MS. SEE: State and spell your
17 name for the record.

18 MR. SEELEY: Thomas Seeley,
19 T-H-O-M-A-S, S-E-E-L-E-Y.

20 MS. SEE: What's your address,
21 sir?

22 MR. SEELEY: 7999 County Road 2,
23 Zanesfield, Ohio, 43361.

24 MS. SEE: Are you a party to this
25 case?

1 MR. SEELEY: No.

2 MS. SEE: Do you live or reside in
3 the project area?

4 MR. SEELEY: Just near.

5 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
6 testimony.

7 MR. SEELEY: I am an engineer and
8 I am for this program. I believe that
9 it is a very convenient, necessary,
10 safe technology for us to use.

11 This picture is a picture that we
12 have taken of our house and it uses
13 solar panels quite effectively. We
14 don't have to pay any air conditioning
15 in the summer and even in the winter
16 the bills are small. We combined that
17 with geothermal.

18 The point is that solar is very
19 effective. Some seemingly doubt that
20 the engineers that are involved and
21 that are making these calculations
22 aren't going to do it right, but they
23 get paid big bucks to make those
24 calculations and they're going to have
25 their feet held in the fire for those

1 calculations being correct so the
2 fields will produce the amount of
3 energy that has been specified.

4 So, when it talks about
5 effectiveness, well, what do you
6 compare that to? Well, currently the
7 mainstay in Ohio is getting electricity
8 made from coal. Well, what's the
9 convenience factor there? The coal has
10 to be dug out of the ground and it has
11 to be transported to a power plant
12 where it gets stored and then later has
13 to be prepared. They have to clean it
14 and dust it out of the ground and they
15 also have to pulverize it into a powder
16 that combusts.

17 When you finally burn it, it
18 really uses those flames and the
19 exhaust has to heat up the water inside
20 tubes that go to the wall of the
21 boiler.

22 These high temperatures have a lot
23 of pollutants created such as the
24 nitrous oxide gases.

25 That dry steam is then run to a

1 turbine where the turbine is connected
2 to a generator. The generator rotates
3 and finally gets you electricity power.
4 This requires some sub processes. The
5 exhaust gas is still filthy and it has
6 to be cleaned up and they call that
7 process scrubbing.

8 It helps to filter out some
9 dangerous pollutants. It has limited
10 effectiveness and still micro particles
11 get through like sulfur dioxide,
12 mercury, and lead.

13 Another process that has to be
14 involved is the cooling, all right.
15 So, there's a whole lot going on there,
16 but what does it take for a solar panel
17 system to work?

18 The sun's protons hit the
19 photovoltaic cells. In other words,
20 God is giving us the protons,
21 transporting them for us, and putting
22 them right where we want them all in
23 one fail swoop.

24 Voltage is then created across the
25 cells. Those voltages are added

1 together like batteries in any device.
2 Then that electricity is run off to an
3 inverter which is a device that can
4 convert electricity free DC to AC and
5 from there it can be run through other
6 transformers much like the coal fired
7 power plants have to do.

8 So, in the field these cells have
9 no major moving parties to wear out.
10 It's very simple and very convenient.

11 Well, what about the end of the
12 line? A lot of people seem worried
13 about that. Well, solar panels have a
14 very simple construction, aluminum
15 frame, tempered glass over top of the
16 cells, the encasement is basically a
17 little sheet of plastic, all right.

18 So, the photovoltaic cells are
19 crystal and silica, essentially glass.
20 But it's with other chemicals. A very
21 common one is phosphorous and another
22 one is boron. If the phosphorous did
23 somehow leak out, that's a form of
24 fertilizer that farmers could use
25 anyway.

1 Boron is something they use in
2 your eye drops. It help your eyes.
3 So, not everything that goes into is
4 necessarily bad.

5 Is it recyclable? Yes. Right now
6 you can take your solar panels that you
7 no longer want up to First Solar near
8 Toledo, Ohio and they can recycle 90
9 percent of the solar cell. Up to 90
10 percent of the semi conductor material
11 can be reused in new models and 90
12 percent of the glass can be reused in
13 new glass products.

14 MS. SEE: Mr. Seeley, you are out
15 of time, sir.

16 Any cross?

17 Thank you very much.

18 Mr. Parmer, come down.

19 Mr. Moreland, raise your right
20 hand.

21 TOM MORELAND

22 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
23 tell the truth, testified as follows:

24 MS. SEE: State and spell your
25 name for the record and provide your

1 address.

2 MR. MORELAND: Tom Moreland,
3 T-O-M, M-O-R-E-L-A-N-D. I live at 877
4 County Road 11 in Harrison County in
5 Bellefontiane.

6 MS. SEE: Do you live or work near
7 the project?

8 MR. MORELAND: No.

9 MS. SEE: Are you a party to the
10 case?

11 MR. MORELAND: No.

12 MS. SEE: Go ahead.

13 MR. MORELAND: I do love living in
14 Logan County. I do not miss living in
15 a big metro area. I love looking out
16 on the open fields instead of seeing
17 what my neighbor is having for dinner.

18 However, this place continues to
19 grow and draw many more people seeking
20 the same quality of life that we enjoy.

21 When my parents, my family, moved
22 here to Bellefontaine in 1980, our
23 house was the last one on the street
24 and was literally the edge of town.
25 The sidewalk ended 10 feet past our

1 driveway.

2 Since then, the 300 acres of woods
3 that laid beyond that have almost
4 entirely been developed for housing and
5 they're still building.

6 Over the past century in Ohio the
7 population has grown from 6.5 million
8 to 12 million people. The population
9 of Columbus proper not counting the
10 suburbs has grown from 300,000 to
11 almost a million people.

12 The population in Logan County has
13 grown from 29,000 to 46,000. I want
14 you to keep in mind that this growth
15 was before Honda announced a 4.2
16 billion investment in electric vehicle
17 production in this area.

18 It was before Intel announced a
19 100 billion dollar investment in the
20 Columbus area for manufacturing semi
21 conductors.

22 It was before our pandemic when
23 many workers realized they didn't have
24 to be tied to big, expensive metro
25 areas.

1 It was before hurricanes convinced
2 some former Ohioans that retired to
3 Florida that maybe Ohio winters aren't
4 that bad.

5 It was before wildfires and water
6 shortages motivated residents in
7 western states to seek homes in more
8 stable areas.

9 Now, before all that let's take --
10 I want to talk a little bit about what
11 that previous growth before all those
12 announcements and external forces has
13 done to the price of farmland.

14 Now, adjusted for inflation, the
15 price of farmland in this area was
16 about \$1,200 an acre in the 1930's.
17 Real price was about \$63.00. If you
18 adjust inflation, in today's dollars it
19 was about \$1,200.

20 Today open farmland is going for
21 about \$6,200 an acre on average. Now,
22 considering the growth pressures coming
23 our way, can you imagine how difficult
24 it will be to forward to continue
25 farming in this area?

1 I feel landowners should have the
2 freedom to explore creative options for
3 staying on their land. I have 5
4 children and not a day or night goes by
5 when I don't worry about the world I'm
6 leaving them.

7 The future I hope for them
8 involves real solutions for climate
9 change. It includes good jobs that
10 allow them to work towards a bright and
11 prosperous future instead of just
12 fighting for survival.

13 Any shot at that future requires
14 all kinds of renewable energy, and I
15 feel we need to embrace any opportunity
16 to participate in these solutions here
17 and everywhere.

18 Now, with this in mind I would
19 love to look out my window and see a
20 solar farm instead of another shopping
21 center or housing.

22 Thank you for listening.

23 MS. SEE: Thank you.

24 Joe Hughes?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a

1 question? Am I allowed to ask a
2 question?

3 MS. SEE: No.

4 Joe Hughes, come down to give
5 testimony.

6 Mr. Parmer?

7 MR. PARMER: Yes.

8 ED PARMER

9 EDWIN PARMER

10 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
11 tell the truth, testified as follows:

12 MS. SEE: State and spell your
13 name for the record.

14 MR. PARMER: Ed Parmer. Edwin.
15 E-D-W-I-N, P-A-R-M-E-R.

16 MS. SEE: And your address?

17 MR. PARMER: 1642 Township Road
18 185, Bellefontaine.

19 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
20 case?

21 MR. PARMER: No.

22 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
23 the project area?

24 MR. PARMER: No.

25 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with

1 your testimony.

2 MR. PARMER: I have lived in Logan
3 County in Jefferson Township for many
4 decades. Our hometown newspaper, the
5 Bellefontaine Examiner, daily prints
6 quotes from one of its founders. That
7 quote is: Nothing is stronger than
8 public opinion. Given the facts,
9 nothing is wiser.

10 There is much strong opinion about
11 the development of renewable energy in
12 our county. Many of us diverge as to
13 the facts upon which our opinion is
14 based.

15 Today the topic is solar energy
16 development. Many well-informed people
17 who want nothing but the best for Logan
18 County believe, based on information
19 they have read or heard, that the
20 negatives outweigh the positives for
21 this.

22 However, emotional objection is
23 based on unverified potential pitfalls
24 are not part of a rational decision
25 process.

1 Let's look at some of the
2 arguments against the solar power
3 generation. Most of the technology and
4 hardware work for solar generation
5 comes from China. While this is
6 currently true, the recently-passed
7 Infrastructure Act has specifically
8 provisions for the development of
9 domestic suppliers of this technology.

10 This is a market opportunity for
11 bringing more industry back to the U.S.

12 The electricity generated will not
13 be consumed locally. This is the
14 nature of the commercial power grid and
15 is just as true of any other source
16 whether nuclear, wind, coal,
17 geothermal, or gas. The electricity we
18 currently use is also generated
19 elsewhere.

20 When the installations are no
21 longer economically viable, the
22 farmland will be become a wasteland.
23 In fact, the OPSB requirements include
24 bonding for site decommissioning,
25 recycling, and restoration,

1 specifically Items 21 and 22 of the
2 conditions of certification.

3 Also, tile damage is addressed as
4 well as its restoration in Item 22 --
5 21 rather.

6 The long-term health risks are
7 unknown. Solar and wind generation
8 have existed for decades in Europe and
9 the U.S. with no documented systematic
10 health consequences.

11 Their appearance ruins the
12 landscape. While beauty may be in the
13 eye of the beholder, it's hard to see
14 how either is more damaging to the
15 landscape than miles of high voltage
16 transmission lines and towers, cell
17 phone towers, highway overpasses,
18 telephone lines, or factories and
19 warehouses, all of which we accept as
20 part of the price of our way of life.

21 As a local example, many major
22 commercial developments have consumed
23 far more land much, much of it
24 farmland, than the proposed solar
25 project.

1 The Transportation Research Center
2 was built on 8,100 acres, much of it
3 farmland. The local Honda plants
4 occupy even more acreage.

5 While controversial at the time,
6 both have proved valuable to the area.

7 The City of Bellefontaine
8 continues to expand southward and
9 eastward.

10 Walmart, Kroger, et cetera, rest
11 on land that was once farmland.

12 Opposition to cell phone towers
13 was rampant until everyone got a cell
14 phone and then the benefits were clear.
15 The same will happen with solar power.

16 Solar development is incompatible
17 with our rural landscape. Again,
18 consistency is important. Farming is
19 an increasingly technological and
20 industrial form of development.

21 Solar installations will be
22 juxtaposed not against the bucolic
23 farmyards of our nostalgic memories but
24 rather against the large-scale farms of
25 today where massive equipment, towering

1 silos, and huge structures which barely
2 resemble traditional barns dominate the
3 landscape.

4 The benefits of installations such
5 as this are both national and local.
6 Nationally and globally such
7 installations are part of the larger
8 approach to combating climate change.
9 On a more local and tangible level,
10 this is another opportunity for our
11 farmers, who are in fact business
12 people, to maintain viable operations.

13 The financial benefits to the
14 local community and especially the
15 schools can be real game changers for
16 both our children and our tax-paying
17 property owners.

18 Logan County is a small but
19 important part of a much larger state,
20 nation, and world. What we do here
21 will have a relatively small impact
22 upon these larger entities but our
23 aggregated decision will have a huge
24 impact upon our area.

25 Our welfare depends upon the

1 decisions of many others but part of
2 that decision is ours. We can attempt
3 to live in the past which will fail.
4 Change continues to come.

5 MS. SEE: You have 30 seconds.

6 MR. PARMER: We have an
7 opportunity to put our best foot
8 forward, make forward-looking factual
9 decisions, and grow with the rest of
10 our state. Let's not be left behind.

11 MS. SEE: Any cross?

12 MS. PARCELS: No.

13 MS. SEE: Thank you.

14 KJ Whitford? KJ Whitford, step
15 forward and be prepared to offer
16 testimony next.

17 Mr. Hughes, raise your right hand.

18 KJ WHITFORD

19 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
20 tell the truth, testified as follows:

21 MS. SEE: State and spell your
22 name for the record and also state your
23 address.

24 MR. HUGHES: Joe Hughes, J-O-E,
25 H-U-G-H-E-S, 6320 State Route 540,

1 Bellefontaine.

2 MS. SEE: And are you a party in
3 this case?

4 MR. HUGHES: No.

5 MS. SEE: And do you live or work
6 in the project area?

7 MR. HUGHES: No. I'm a landowner.
8 I'm a landowner in Rushcreek. My wife
9 is a landowner in Bokescreek.

10 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
11 testimony.

12 MR. HUGHES: In January of this
13 year, along with hundreds of people, I
14 was able to go to an open house
15 sponsored by Invenergy just across the
16 parking lot.

17 The people that attended that
18 meeting were very disturbed to learn
19 that their neighborhood had been
20 secretly infiltrated by developers of
21 solar power. They were upset. They
22 didn't understand. Who knew this was
23 going on?

24 Was it part of the Outreach
25 Program that Invenergy talks about or

1 was it part of the Good Neighbor Plan?
2 The community was further angered when
3 a lease holder openly boasted that this
4 is a done deal. This is my
5 interpretation what the lease holder
6 tells the public that this is a done
7 deal. Joe Hughes says: Go on home,
8 your voice is not important here. Was
9 that true? Was the decision made by
10 back in January? I don't know.

11 What does it tell you about a
12 company's business plan which calls for
13 months of activity in the darkness
14 while the affected community's
15 landscape and quality of life is going
16 to be assaulted.

17 Soon, a grassroots uprising would
18 begin. Citizens were catching the
19 attention of township trustees.
20 Trustees were listening. Hello Senate
21 Bill 52.

22 We have talked about what happened
23 in Logan County. In regard to the
24 Senate Bill 52, 62 townships chose to
25 be included as restricted zones. All

1 of the townships except one supported
2 that.

3 In the school district of Benjamin
4 Logan in Logan County every township
5 supported Senate Bill 52 restrictions.

6 I would like to ask you this. If
7 solar projects are so good, why would
8 you want to limit them to one Fountain
9 Point project? Why would you do that?
10 I don't know the answer to that, but I
11 do know this: When the Logan County
12 Commissioners passed the restriction,
13 there was an opportunity for anyone who
14 had a view in opposition to carry a
15 petition. That petition would force
16 the action of restrictions to the
17 public vote. Every voter in Logan
18 County would have an opportunity to
19 reverse that action by the county
20 commissioners with a petition.

21 That petition was never carried.
22 It didn't happen. Where were the pro
23 solar folks? If one project is good
24 isn't 5 better? That's what they would
25 like to you believe.

1 The petitions was never carried.
2 The pro solar folks chose to sit on the
3 sidelines. Logan County made a very
4 clear and concise statement. No thank
5 you to wind and solar projects.

6 In the staff report of
7 investigations dated November 29th, it
8 talks about and leads you to believe
9 that there is an equal balance between
10 opposition and pro solar people. The
11 facts simply do not support this. Why
12 must I find a false statement such as
13 this in the staff report? What is the
14 end game here?

15 The Fountain Point project clearly
16 and decisively fails to serve the
17 public interest, convenience, and
18 necessity.

19 MS. SEE: Mr. Hughes, you are of
20 time.

21 MR. HUGHES: I ask you to deny
22 this project. In the case of Benjamin
23 Logan -- do I have a couple seconds?

24 MS. SEE: No. You are out of
25 time.

1 Any recross?

2 Mr. Knief, please come down and be
3 ready to give testimony.

4 Ms. Whitford, please raise your
5 right hand.

6 KJ WHITFORD

7 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
8 tell the truth, testified as follows:

9 MS. SEE: State and spell your
10 name for the record and also give us a
11 your address.

12 MS. WHITFORD: K.J. Whitford,
13 W-H-I-T-F-O-R-D, 422 Kent Drive,
14 Bellefontaine, Ohio.

15 MS. SEE: Are you a party to this
16 case?

17 MS. WHITFORD: No.

18 MS. SEE: And do you live or work
19 in the project area?

20 MS. WHITFORD: No.

21 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
22 testimony.

23 MS. WHITFORD: Good evening. As I
24 said, my name is KJ Whitford. I wanted
25 to take a few minutes to vocalize my

1 opposition on Fountain Point Solar
2 Project.

3 As an alumnus of Benjamin Logan
4 High School, I spent my entire
5 childhood living in this area. Even
6 when attending college, I continued to
7 reside here in Logan County commuting
8 an hour to downtown Columbus for
9 several years.

10 I then married a fellow graduate
11 from Benjamin Logan and we moved and
12 ultimately came back with hopes to
13 settle down in this area and become
14 homeowners.

15 I sat on this because earlier this
16 year we were prepared to make that
17 dream a reality and build a home not
18 far from where the solar project will
19 reside.

20 Due to the current market, the
21 ability to establish equity in our
22 future home became a focal point and
23 was only exacerbated by the impending
24 solar project which will inevitably
25 lower our surrounding property value.

1 The importance of this story is
2 that the Fountain Point Project will
3 only curb residential growth in the
4 area by influencing young families like
5 mine to live elsewhere.

6 This development might also lead
7 to current residents relocating to
8 green pastures. Ultimately, this
9 regression in population leads to a
10 reduced investment in infrastructure
11 and the areas such as Internet and road
12 maintenance.

13 The Fountain Point Solar Project
14 will greatly impact the surrounding
15 ecosystem due to range of factors such
16 as habitat loss, exposure to hazardous
17 materials, and pollution of water
18 resources.

19 One such ecosystem that could be
20 disrupted could be the bald eagle. As
21 of 2020 the Ohio Division of wildlife
22 confirmed there were 8 identified bald
23 eagles nests located in Logan County.

24 As of 2016, it was estimated that
25 nearly 140,000 birds are killed

1 annually at solar facilities across the
2 United States.

3 Personally, I witnessed a bald
4 eagle in the area between County Road
5 12 and State Route 292. The existence
6 of bald eagles in the area raises
7 concerns in regards to the Bald and
8 Golden Eagle Protection Act and the --
9 sorry -- and the safety of birds with
10 which the solar facility, especially
11 one of this size.

12 In addition to the eagles, there
13 is also other wildlife that would no
14 longer be able to traverse the area
15 easily and could potentially cause more
16 traffic accidents as a result.

17 Invenergy's website touts that at
18 peak construction Fountain Point's
19 Solar Energy Center is expected to
20 employ as many as 800 people. The
21 period of peak construction was never
22 defined and realistically those jobs
23 will be contracted out to companies
24 equipped to handle that workload.

25 Even so, those jobs are only

1 temporary and will provide little to no
2 benefit to the community long-term.

3 Invenergy goes on to say after
4 construction the project will employ up
5 to 4 additional permanent staff. For
6 the considerably massive footprint of
7 over the 3,000 acres of this project
8 will consume, it will produce a meager
9 amount of employment opportunities that
10 can be counted on one hand.

11 As far as the 2.4 million that
12 Invenergy will bail to landowners only
13 includes a handful of individuals that
14 are not remotely representative of the
15 general community.

16 I encourage you to observe the
17 community gathering that occurred here
18 tonight for a world community to
19 mobilize such as this as this will be,
20 and it speaks volumes in lengths this
21 community will be go to right this
22 injustice.

23 This project is selling financial
24 well-being, physical well-being, and
25 the overall quality of life of the

1 surrounding community and offering
2 little in terms of those directly
3 impacted.

4 I strongly encourage the board to
5 act in accordance of the community by
6 motioning to terminate the Fountain
7 Point Project.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 MS. SEE: Thank you.

10 Derrik Schneider? Mr. Schneider,
11 come on down.

12 Mr. Knief, raise your right hand.

13 KYLE KNIEF

14 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
15 tell the truth, testified as follows:

16 MS. SEE: Please state and spell
17 your name for the record and give us
18 address.

19 MR. KNIEF: Kyle Knief, K-Y-L-E,
20 K-N-I-E-F. I reside at 10537 County
21 Road 13, Lewistown, Ohio.

22 MS. SEE: Okay. Do you live or
23 work in the project area?

24 MR. KNIEF: No, ma'am.

25 MS. SEE: Are you a party to the

1 case?

2 MR. KNIEF: No.

3 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
4 your testimony.

5 MR. KNIEF: First of all, I want
6 to thank the Ohio Power Siting Board
7 for allowing me to speak here today. I
8 come here to express my concerns and
9 speak of the negative impacts the
10 Fountain Point Project will have on the
11 community and the whole county.

12 I come here to express my concerns
13 on several levels: The county of
14 Bloomfield Township trustee, a farmer,
15 and concerned citizen of Logan County.
16 On a trustee note, I come to confirm
17 that Bloomfield Township joined the
18 list of townships that requested Logan
19 County be a restricted area for solar
20 and wind owners.

21 I thank the commissioners for
22 listening to those townships and all
23 the concerned citizens that opposed
24 this.

25 I think it's very important that

1 the Ohio Power Siting Board take into
2 consideration that the leadership of
3 Logan County has set into place.

4 We know that one of the biggest
5 concerns for the project is property
6 rights. Being a farmer myself, I hear
7 that point but also believe there is
8 more to it than that.

9 For those of us who are fortunate
10 enough to own farmland, there is great
11 responsibility. Whenever we --
12 whatever we do can and will affect our
13 neighbors and we must always keep that
14 in mind.

15 All the houses in Logan County
16 need a drain, an outlet tile. Most of
17 them, especially in the flatlands areas
18 in which the Fountain Point Project
19 lays has to rely on field tile that
20 most of the time runs across farmland.
21 You see, I understand this very well
22 being a farmer myself and also how a
23 small excavation company we have a lot
24 of these same issues on our own
25 properties and deal with a large amount

1 of house drains and that hook into the
2 tile.

3 If these solar panels go in, it
4 will destroy the surface and subsurface
5 drainage for these farms which will
6 impact every house up and down those
7 same roads.

8 They say they will locate these
9 tile and be able to avoid the areas,
10 but being involved in farming and
11 tiling in the last 35 years I can tell
12 you that is impossible.

13 They may be able to locate the
14 main tiles but the laterals will not,
15 and that will be a different story.

16 This can also affect neighboring
17 farms as well as those tile can run
18 cross property lines and other
19 neighbors.

20 We have many farms that the tile
21 interfere with. If it was drastically
22 affected, hundreds of acres of farmland
23 upstream. It will not only affect how
24 the land will produce but also the
25 point -- to the point a lot may not be

1 farmable.

2 This will make an even greater
3 affect on the amount of now productive
4 farmland that's taken out of
5 production.

6 How can we just turn a blind eye
7 taking all this productive land out of
8 production? Agricultural is such a
9 huge part of this community. This land
10 gives us grain to feed local livestock
11 and beyond. A lot also gets hauled to
12 the processing that even make it into
13 products for human consumption.

14 Where will all this grain come
15 from if this land become solar panels?
16 Farmland is one resource they aren't
17 making any more of, so we need to take
18 care of it and not waste it.

19 You may think I'm anti solar but
20 that's not true. If someone wants
21 solar panels on their own property for
22 their own use, that is just fine.

23 I do want to pose this question
24 though. If solar is so great, why
25 doesn't Honda, Walmart, Lowe's, or any

1 other large factory have their roofs
2 and parking lots covered with solar
3 panels? Why would that be? Could it
4 be solar panels are not an effective
5 source to generate electricity?

6 If it wouldn't be for large
7 corporations buying solar tax credits,
8 we wouldn't even be here tonight.

9 Logan County has so much to offer.
10 It goes from Indian Lake to Valley High
11 and from Ohio Castles to the highest
12 point in Ohio.

13 Then we have the rolling farmland
14 and the low flatland that is some of
15 the most productive and fertile soil in
16 this part of the state.

17 MS. SEE: You have less than 30
18 seconds.

19 MR. KNIEF: We are so blessed to
20 have such a diversity in our county and
21 that bring such an enormous amount of
22 tourism in this area.

23 You're able to see so many things
24 on a short drive. If you let Fountain
25 Point Solar Project proceed, we will

1 not only affect that particular area
2 but the whole county.

3 I strongly urge the Power Siting
4 Board to vote against this project and
5 not allow it to proceed here or
6 anywhere in Logan county.

7 MS. SEE: Any cross?

8 MS. PARCELS: Mr. Kneif, on the
9 basis of your excavation experience or
10 as a township trustee, how common is it
11 when those drainage tiles have issues
12 that the property owner petitions the
13 township or the county for a ditch for
14 improvement prepared to address the
15 drainage issues?

16 MR. KNIEF: It does happen. It's
17 not real common. They do get
18 petitioned. It takes a very large
19 process for it to happen.

20 MS. PARCELS: In your experience
21 as an excavator, how expensive are
22 those repairs and excavations for field
23 tiles like per linear foot say?

24 MR. KNIEF: It all depends on the
25 size of the tile. You can go from

1 anywhere from a 24-inch tile to a
2 4-inch tile.

3 You know, the main tile, if
4 they're damaged, a 24-inch tile can be
5 up to probably 30 to \$40 a foot to buy
6 new tile a linear foot.

7 It all varies with petroleum
8 costs. It can get very expensive. It
9 is large tile.

10 MS. PARCELS: Nothing further.

11 MS. SEE: Any other cross?

12 Thank you very much.

13 We have approximately 27 more
14 witnesses to go tonight. I would just
15 like you to know if you have been here
16 and you have listened to testimony and
17 you are supporting that testimony and
18 advocating for the project or against
19 the project there are sheets outside at
20 the table by the board staff that you
21 can sign either endorsing the project
22 or advocating against the project.

23 Let me try that again. If you
24 have been present and are not -- did
25 not offer testimony tonight but wish to

1 let the board know how you feel, there
2 are sheets outside at the board's table
3 where you can sign a sheet saying you
4 were present and heard the testimony
5 and that you are either endorsing the
6 project or opposing the project.

7 I just wanted to let you know you
8 can take that avenue.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You may
10 have wanted to say that at the
11 beginning.

12 MS. SEE: I'm sorry?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You may
14 have wanted to say that at the
15 beginning.

16 MS. SEE: Well, everyone has an
17 opportunity to offer testimony. They
18 can still offer comments into the
19 docket by going online.

20 If they need information on how to
21 do that, they can call in or go online.

22 At this time let's take about 5
23 minutes for a comfort break.

24 We will resume in about 5 minutes
25 at 8:35.

1 (15-minute recess)

2 MS. SEE: We are back on the
3 record.

4 Mr. Schneider, if you could raise
5 your right hand please.

6 DERRIK SCHNEIDER

7 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
8 tell the truth, testified as follows:

9 MS. SEE: State and spell your
10 name for the record and give your
11 address.

12 MR. SCHNEIDER: My name is Derrik
13 Schneider. It's D-E-R-R-I-K,
14 S-C-H-N-E-I-D-E-R, 481 County Road 5,
15 Zanesfield, Ohio.

16 MS. SEE: Are you a party to this
17 case?

18 MR. SCHNEIDER: No. I live near
19 the area. I have parents that reside
20 in Rushcreek Township where I grew up.
21 They still own the land. I'm the
22 executor of their estate. I do have
23 some skill in the game.

24 I'm strongly opposed to this
25 project. I observed the overwhelming

1 local opposition to this project
2 including unanimous opposition by local
3 and elected bodies.

4 No elected body passed any
5 resolution in support of this project
6 anywhere in Logan County.

7 If this project were not slipped
8 in under the wire, grandfathered under
9 Senate Bill 52, we would not even be
10 eligible for consideration, so please
11 stand up and protect the people in
12 Logan County as your decision criteria
13 and the current legislation requires.

14 Fountain Point Solar does not
15 satisfy the public interest.

16 While sitting here, I also
17 observed a lot of things that seemed
18 off to me. Since this is on the
19 record, you can probably answer my
20 question. My question is: Was it
21 stated anywhere leading up to this
22 event that people are not allowed to
23 have --

24 MS. SEE: Before you go down this
25 path, I think you were here for the

1 introduction, we announced to everyone
2 that this was not a question and answer
3 session. This is your opportunity to
4 make sure the board is aware of what
5 you --

6 MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay. Well, be
7 aware that a lot of people were told
8 they were not allowed to have visual
9 aids, so take that into consideration.
10 That seems a little shady, and a lot of
11 these numbers are things that don't
12 seem accurate. Take that into
13 consideration.

14 I was also curious sitting here if
15 Dr. Susan Seeley was a representative
16 of Logan School, because she made me
17 feel like she was.

18 MS. SEELEY: I don't work for the
19 school.

20 MR. SCHNEIDER: The way you're
21 talking, your power point lead me to
22 believe that. Take that into care
23 consideration.

24 Also take into consideration that
25 schools don't need this money. There's

1 a difference between wanting and
2 needing. Yes, it might be helpful.

3 Also, in this power point consider
4 that it seemed like they had this money
5 spent before they got it and acted like
6 the social programs in Logan County are
7 going to collapse if we don't get it.
8 Please consider that that's probably
9 not accurate either.

10 Please make the right choice. I
11 heard a lot of good stuff both ways,
12 but please consider that this county is
13 beautiful the way it is and it needs to
14 remain that way.

15 Make the right decision. That's
16 all I have to say.

17 MS. SEE: Thank you.

18 Steve Mortimer? Steve Mortimer?
19 Mr. Mortimer? Are you Mr. Mortimer?

20 MR. MORTIMER: I'm Mr. Mortimer.

21 MS. SEE: April Lantz?

22 Step down. You're after
23 Mr. Mortimer.

24 Mr. Mortimer, raise your right
25 hand.

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STEVE MORTIMER

After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, testified as follows:

MS. SEE: State and spell your name for the record and also state your address.

MR. MORTIMER: My last name is Mortimer, M-O-R-T-I-M-E-R. My address is 4492 County Road 55, Bellefontaine, Ohio.

MS. SEE: Do you live or work in the project area?

MR. MORTIMER: No.

MS. SEE: Are you a party to the case?

MR. MORTIMER: No.

MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with your testimony.

MR. MORTIMER: I have lived in the Logan County area for 55 years now. This community in the proposed area is rich in cultural history.

In reading the Ohio Power Siting Board November 29th, 2022 Reporter, relating to the cultural resources they

1 too recognized the deep history and the
2 facts that make up this rich history.

3 The report calls out in excess of
4 300 archeological resources being
5 identified, 16 of which are slated for
6 further research to determine how the
7 project will move forward.

8 Some of these sites are
9 potentially eligible to place on the
10 National Registry of Historical Places.

11 Additionally, some of these sites
12 are cemeteries. Do you know what --
13 what these -- what these sites are? Do
14 you understand who are intern --
15 entered in these graves? These are --
16 are these cemeteries of local residents
17 or are they Native Americans or
18 possibly from the flat-lived community?

19 Make the community have the right
20 to protect this rich cultural heritage
21 and the fertile farmland that was
22 developed years ago. The hard work of
23 our early settlers to develop this land
24 and community was meant to last for
25 generations.

1 History cannot be changed and it
2 can't be ignored and it can't be moved.
3 The Fountain Solar Project does not
4 serve the public interest's needs and
5 the convenience.

6 Thank you for this opportunity.

7 MS. SEE: Any cross?

8 Thank you, sir.

9 Michele Whitford? Ms. Whitford,
10 step forward and be prepared to offer
11 testimony next.

12 Ms. Lantz, raise your right hand.

13 APRIL LANTZ

14 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
15 tell the truth, testified as follows:

16 MS. SEE: State and spell your
17 name for the record and also state your
18 address.

19 MS. LANTZ: April Lantz,
20 L-A-N-T-Z. My address is 3046 County
21 Road 12, Bellefontaine, Rushcreek
22 Township. I live within a mile of the
23 project.

24 MS. SEE: Are you party to the
25 case?

1 MS. LANTZ: No.

2 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
3 testimony.

4 MS. LANTZ: So, I'm here in
5 opposition to the project. As I
6 stated, I live within a mile of the
7 project. My husband grew up on this
8 road.

9 We are part of the acreage from my
10 father-in-law's property. In our area,
11 and as I'm sure you're hearing from a
12 lot of people in this room, it's
13 generations of people over here.

14 I went to Ben Logan Schools. Not
15 this school. It's a brand new school.
16 I went to an old school.

17 But, you know, a lot of people are
18 born and raised. I can tell you I left
19 the county for a couple years but I
20 came back because this is home.

21 So, as I'm hearing about this
22 project, I went to the February 14th
23 Rushcreek Township Meeting with a
24 representative from the solar company
25 there and the township trustees and

1 they're being grilled how long they
2 have known about this project but
3 before everyone else was finding out
4 about the project and then I hear, you
5 know, the township trustees -- and I
6 don't know if you are aware of this or
7 have seen the news, but the Rushcreek
8 Fire Department and EMS was not
9 functioning for a few months. It
10 didn't exist.

11 So, if there is a -- if they have
12 a falling out with the township -- the
13 township and the department were at
14 odds with each other. If they're at
15 odds with each other again, what
16 happens when there's a fire or some
17 emergency? How is that going to be
18 handled?

19 We have to go to Bokescreek,
20 Bellefontaine, or somewhere else, but
21 it's a volunteer fire department. It's
22 relying on people to volunteer to do
23 these services and if, you know, the
24 county or whoever or everybody is
25 arguing with people you may not have

1 somebody there to take care of the
2 fire.

3 Another thing I have been thinking
4 about since I have been hearing about
5 the project, I'm trying to find out
6 what it is that, you know, the people
7 who live near the project or whoever,
8 what is it -- what is it that
9 benefits -- benefits the area? What do
10 we get out of this, and I hear: Well,
11 you know, the project is going to
12 give -- the company is going to give
13 money to the school and give money to
14 the fire department, and I'm thinking
15 does the fire department have staff to
16 handle whatever money they're getting
17 or will there be any staff there to
18 handle this?

19 The school, you know, it's great
20 they're getting money. I don't have
21 any kids in the school so that doesn't
22 benefit me.

23 When they were showing the slide
24 show here earlier, they're showing this
25 nice athletic facility. School isn't

1 about athletics. It's about learning.
2 So, it's not -- you know, if it's going
3 to an education, but what I think will
4 happen in the school district is you're
5 going to use it for not the necessities
6 in life. They're going to use it for
7 an athletic facility like that. You
8 know, hey, isn't that great?

9 There are so many things this
10 school has that I didn't have like jazz
11 band, swim team, soccer team. That's
12 great, but what I want is an education.

13 My daughter went to school here
14 and graduated from here and she went on
15 to college and she's working in a
16 medical lab. You can still get a good
17 education here even though the school
18 is old.

19 Am I going to get electric from
20 this project? No. Do I get any
21 reduction in my rate? No.

22 What am I going to get? Well, I
23 live down the road from the project so
24 I'm going to get increased traffic on
25 my road, which I already have a lot of

1 traffic because I'm a north/south route
2 to and from the Honda plants, so I
3 already have a lot of traffic on my
4 road.

5 We already have accidents on our
6 road. I'm going to have a tore up of
7 road, more traffic, people from out of
8 state or wherever coming to work
9 because it's supposed to give jobs, but
10 honestly there are so many jobs now in
11 this environment that we don't need
12 more jobs.

13 We can't even get enough people to
14 work at Honda, to work at Midwest
15 Express, to work at McDonald's.

16 The Applebee's in Marysville
17 closes before dinnertime because they
18 don't have the staff.

19 So, it just not doesn't make sense
20 to me like the things they say they're
21 going to provide, it just isn't -- it
22 doesn't make sense to me.

23 I believe in the preservation of
24 the farmland, the wildlife. The
25 wildlife, if you watch anything, you

1 know, they're following certain trails
2 all the time. I can see deer. I have
3 deer tracks in my backyard going
4 through the woods. Turkeys do the same
5 thing. I even have a cat that does
6 that.

7 So, in short, I just want to say,
8 you know, I request and urge you to
9 deny this project.

10 Thank you for the time.

11 MS. SEE: Any cross?

12 Travis Hefner?

13 Ms. Whitford, please raise your
14 right hand.

15 MICHELE WHITFORD

16 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
17 tell the truth, testified as follows:

18 MS. SEE: Please state and spell
19 your name for the record.

20 MS. WHITFORD: Michele Whitford.

21 MS. SEE: Spell your name for the
22 record.

23 MS. WHITFORD: Michele,
24 M-I-C-H-E-L-E, W-H-I-T-F-O-R-D. 282
25 County Road 12, Bellefontaine, Ohio.

1 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
2 case?

3 MS. WHITFORD: No.

4 MS. SEE: And do you live or work
5 in the project area?

6 MS. WHITFORD: I'm about, as the
7 crow flies, about a half mile from the
8 project. I'm not sure what the
9 "project area" means. We're not
10 directly adjacent but we're very close.

11 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
12 your testimony.

13 MS. WHITFORD: Thank you.

14 Hello. My name is Michele
15 Whitford. I am not one for public
16 speaking but here I am all because
17 Fountain Point is trying to change the
18 landscape of our community.

19 My family moved to this area and
20 built our home in 2002. As the crow
21 flies, it's about a mile from the
22 proposed site.

23 We live in an area that
24 experiences a lot of flooding already.
25 Mill Creek runs through our backyard.

1 When it rains heavily, creeks turn into
2 a roaring river.

3 If Fountain Point scrapes and
4 compacts the topsoil to install
5 thousands of acres of solar panels, I
6 can only imagine what our flooding will
7 be. What will we lose: Driveways,
8 roads, farms, homes? What will we
9 gain? What washes off these panels
10 from China?

11 China can't give us prescription
12 meds or baby food without being
13 contaminated? What chemicals will end
14 up in our well water? What chemicals
15 will end up in the drinking water of
16 Marysville, Delaware, parts of Columbus
17 that our watershed provides water to?
18 We are the start of the watershed and
19 the beginning of Mill Creek.

20 My husband and I worked hard to
21 build a home in an area where we felt
22 was a safe place, one that had a good
23 community, a good school system, one
24 that would let our kids experience
25 nature and wildlife like we did, plus

1 for 20-plus years it has given us
2 everything we wanted.

3 Our boys graduated here from this
4 high school. They grew up playing
5 paint ball in our woods, wading through
6 the creek, camping and exploring. We
7 have deer, turkeys, pheasant, fox,
8 turtles. You name it, we have probably
9 seen it walking through our yard.

10 I was on my back deck a few years
11 ago and witnessed the death spiral of
12 two eagles. There were these two huge
13 birds with their talons locked,
14 spinning down from the sky. It was
15 amazing to see. They landed near our
16 woods and creek, walked around for a
17 bit, and then flew off. How many
18 people live in a place where they can
19 see that?

20 If Fountain Point comes in,
21 everything will change. All the
22 reasons I listed for making this home
23 our home won't fit. Our community
24 won't look the same. How many people
25 will move? Who will come in their

1 place? Who will want to live in an
2 area where no one wants to be?

3 What about our schools? We have
4 small country roads. If fountain Point
5 comes in, they will fill these rural
6 roads with heavy equipment traveling
7 back and forth. This heavy equipment
8 will share the road with buses of young
9 children and teenage drivers all within
10 a 2 to 3 mile footprint from where we
11 stand tonight.

12 What about our wildlife? They
13 will be pushed out and migrate away.
14 This process will cause many accidents
15 on our roads. Will my grandchildren
16 get to see nature the way my kids did?
17 Will they get to play in our creek and
18 woods? Probably not because I don't
19 know what chemicals have been leached
20 into the ground and water. My home
21 will no longer feel safe and I will
22 wonder daily what health risks my
23 family is being exposed to. Because of
24 that, our home will no longer feel like
25 our home.

1 Everything I just described about
2 our way of life is being threatened.

3 Fountain Point wants to risk all
4 of it. They want to change the life we
5 built and place we built it. We love
6 the country and everything that comes
7 with it. We don't live in town and we
8 do not want a 3,000 acre solar
9 industrial site in our backyard.

10 I have seen no real benefit to
11 this proposed project, only a great
12 loss.

13 Thank you for your time tonight
14 and I hope you can see this project
15 does not meet the public need and will
16 be detrimental to our community.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. SEE: Questions?

19 MS. PARCELS: You indicated that
20 you built your home in 2002. Were you
21 around when the tornado hit in 2002?

22 MS. WHITFORD: Actually, we were
23 moving into our house and we didn't
24 even know about it because we didn't
25 have any electric at the time. We were

1 just pulling everything in. We didn't
2 have a TV up.

3 My mom and dad got there to help
4 us and they told us they had seen it on
5 the way to our house.

6 MS. PARCELS: Do you, as a home
7 owner in the general vicinity, have any
8 concerns about the wind speed of the
9 panels as evidenced in the application
10 of only 100 miles per hour?

11 MS. WHITFORD: I believe it was
12 just a couple months ago we had gusts
13 of over 70 miles an hour.

14 The wind is crazy out there.
15 These things will get tore up and
16 they're going to break in my opinion,
17 and I don't know what's in them.

18 MS. PARCELS: Nothing further.

19 MS. SEE: Additional cross?

20 Thank you. Mr. Hefner?

21 Anna Whitford? Anna Whitford?

22 MR. WHITFORD: Andy Whitford.

23 MS. SEE: Mr. Whitford, have a
24 seat and be ready to go after
25 Mr. Hefner.

1 Mr. Hefner, raise your right hand.

2 TRAVIS HEFNER

3 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
4 tell the truth, testified as follows:

5 MS. SEE: State and spell your
6 name for the record and also give us
7 your address.

8 MR. HEFNER: Travis Hefner,
9 H-E-F-N-E-R, 413 Township 131, West
10 Mansfield.

11 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
12 case?

13 MR. HEFNER: No.

14 MS. SEE: Do you live or reside in
15 the project area?

16 MR. HEFNER: Yes.

17 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
18 testimony.

19 MR. HEFNER: I had a nice speech
20 wrote up but my phone died so I'm
21 winging it.

22 I'm a farmer, father, and husband
23 in this area and we are strongly
24 against the project. I suggest you
25 listen to a lot of the people up here

1 who are very, very educated about this
2 stuff. I don't have any numbers or
3 graphs or whatever, but these people
4 back here are very, very smart and very
5 respected in our community. Listen to
6 them.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. SEE: Any cross?

9 Thank you.

10 Tarra Deardurff?

11 Mr. Whitford, raise your right
12 hand.

13 ANDY WHITFORD

14 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
15 tell the truth, testified as follows:

16
17 MS. SEE: State and spell your
18 name for the record and also state your
19 address.

20 MR. WHITFORD: Andy Whitford,
21 W-H-I-T-F-O-R-D, 2882 County Road 12,
22 Bellefontaine.

23 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
24 the project area?

25 MR. WHITFORD: No. We are, as she

1 said, about half a mile.

2 MS. SEE: Okay. Are you a party
3 to the case?

4 MR. WHITFORD: No, ma'am.

5 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead and give
6 your testimony.

7 MR. WHITFORD: Good evening. My
8 name is Andy Whitford. I live in Rush
9 Creek Township and my backyard is in
10 Bokescreek Township with Mill Creek
11 running between them.

12 Let me start by saying that I am
13 strongly opposed to this
14 industrial-sized solar facility for
15 many reasons including loss of fertile
16 farm ground, loss of property value,
17 loss of wildlife habitat, et cetera. A
18 major and more personal reason is for
19 the potential flooding and the leaching
20 of the numerous toxic chemicals from
21 the Chinese-made solar panels.

22 As I stated, Mill Creek runs
23 through our backyard. For those of you
24 who aren't familiar with the area, Mill
25 Creek is the start of a watershed area

1 in Logan County and it is a very big
2 drainage area that a large percentage
3 of this proposed facility sits in.

4 As you can imagine with such a
5 large drainage area, and I'm sure many
6 here will agree, it floods rather
7 easily and fairly often.

8 I have many videos of the flooding
9 and have posted some of them to the
10 OPSB website.

11 With over 3,000 acres of solar
12 panels and all the destruction that
13 comes with their installation, the
14 flooding will only get worse.

15 With this area being a watershed,
16 our water table is very high with many
17 natural springs throughout the area.

18 As a side note, when the Invengery
19 rep explained they were removing Perry
20 Township from the project, one of the
21 reasons was the concern of the people
22 about the water shed and natural
23 springs. So, one has to wonder if that
24 truly was a reason for Perry Township
25 removal, then why wouldn't the same

1 consideration be given to the even more
2 important water shed area of Mill
3 Creek?

4 We do not have city water out
5 here. We have wells. So, any
6 pollution from these Chinese panels
7 could very easily contaminate our
8 drinking water.

9 I mentioned Chinese-made solar
10 panels for a reason. They couldn't
11 make dog food without having a recall
12 for arsenic. They couldn't make
13 children's toys without a recall for
14 lead in the paint.

15 If they are unable to supply these
16 simple products safely, then there is
17 no way they can mass manufacture and
18 supply these panels in the current
19 political climate without any
20 detrimental affects to our environment.

21 It is a known fact that these
22 panels degrade as they age, and as they
23 do, chemicals such as lead and cadmium
24 will end up in our water.

25 I cannot stress the importance of

1 Mill Creek enough. This is taken from
2 Union County Gov Website: From its
3 headwaters in Logan County, the creek
4 flows 37 miles through Logan, Union and
5 Delaware Counties and deposits into the
6 Scioto River. 178 square miles drains
7 into Mill Creek. It is a major water
8 source for the city of Marysville, and
9 as you may know, the Scioto is a water
10 source for the city of Columbus.

11 So, you can imagine the importance
12 of keeping the water source as clean as
13 possible.

14 For over the past 20 years my
15 family has lived here and we have
16 enjoyed having the creek running
17 through our backyard. The kids played
18 in and around it and now our grandkids
19 are enjoying the fun of living in the
20 country.

21 Our youngest son and his wife
22 planned to build a new house on the
23 front of the property, but with the
24 prospect of having an industrial-sized
25 solar facility less than a mile away,

1 they decided to wait and make sure the
2 project is turned down before building
3 a home for a lifetime.

4 With so much urban sprawl going on
5 every day, we would hate to have our
6 rural way of life ruined by an
7 industrial site of this size.

8 My family and many others have
9 built a life out here in the sticks
10 away from the so-called amenities of
11 the city for a reason.

12 We love the privacy. We enjoy the
13 peaceful sounds, smells, and sights of
14 nature, the deer, raccoons, opossums,
15 fox, et cetera, birds of all kinds,
16 even an occasional bald eagle.

17 We did not build our lives out
18 here to see over 3,000 acres of mirrors
19 blinding us as we try to enjoy a
20 peaceful drive or the occasional
21 sunrise or sunset.

22 Okay, now for a common sense side,
23 economical argument against solar that
24 I've had since I first heard of this
25 project that no one has been able to

1 adequately explain to me. Since I
2 moved to Ohio some 34 years ago one of
3 my major complaints has been the sun
4 seemingly never shines. It is always
5 cloudy. According to the Weather Atlas
6 Website, the sun shines in this part of
7 Ohio for 167 days a year. These are
8 not completely sunny days. These are
9 days that the sun shines for at least 4
10 hours a day.

11 The current solar panel efficiency
12 is 15 to 20 percent and this degrades
13 0.3 percent to 0.8 percent per year
14 depending on weather conditions. This
15 means that 15 to 20 percent of the
16 total sunshine that hits the panel is
17 converted to electricity.

18 So, you have a technology when all
19 conditions are perfect that is only
20 successful 20 percent of the time in a
21 state where the sun only shines less
22 than 46 percent of the total days, not
23 total hours, of daylight.

24 How in the world does anyone with
25 any common sense think this is

1 feasible? It is even more unreasonable
2 when you consider that they are
3 replacing some of the more fertile farm
4 ground with this inefficient eyesore.

5 It is amazing to me that seemingly
6 intelligent people are buying into
7 this. Then again, buying in isn't the
8 right phrase. Maybe selling out is a
9 better description.

10 All you have to do is --

11 MS. SEE: You have 30 seconds.

12 MR. WHITFORD: -- all you have to
13 do is follow the money from the
14 politicians to the special interest
15 groups to the very small number of
16 landowners getting rich from this snake
17 oil.

18 The only reason these projects are
19 even considered is because of
20 government mandates and enormous
21 subsidies.

22 In my experience anytime the
23 federal government issues mandates and
24 throws obscene amounts of money at
25 something, no matter what the intent,

1 in the end it never benefits we the
2 people.

3 MS. SEE: Sir, you are out of
4 time.

5 Laurel Benefiel?

6 Ms. Deardurff, raise your right
7 hand.

8 TARRA DEARDURFF

9 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
10 tell the truth, testified as follows:

11 MS. SEE: State and spell your
12 name for the record and state your
13 address and also tell me if you are a
14 party to this case.

15 MS. DEARDURFF: Tarra Deardurff.
16 My address is 9716 State Route 47, West
17 Mansfield, Ohio. I am not a party.

18 MS. SEE: Okay. Do you live or
19 work in the project area?

20 MS. DEARDURFF: Yes.

21 MS. SEE: Go ahead.

22 MS. DEARDURFF: I'm speaking today
23 for various reasons. First, I want to
24 bring up I would like to inform that
25 the Fountain Point Project lacks

1 transparency, accurate data regarding
2 adjoining parcels, and zero interest in
3 reaching out to the residents within
4 this proposed project.

5 I'm very concerned because our
6 property is not even listed as an
7 adjoining property. Our home is
8 approximately 256 feet, according to
9 the second application, to the proposed
10 panels which is literally right out my
11 front door. I walk across the street.
12 Yet, they did not list me as a property
13 owner.

14 If Fountain Point cannot file
15 accurate information to the OPSB, how
16 can they be trusted that all their
17 filings, research, and other data is
18 truthful and that we can believe them?

19 With our property being so close,
20 you would think they would have sent a
21 representative to stop by, talk to us,
22 answer questions. We have never seen
23 anyone come and speak with us. We
24 never even new about the project until
25 the open house that was over here at

1 the middle school at the beginning of
2 the year.

3 I have many questions. We live in
4 a wind tunnel. It's always windy.
5 What's going to happen when a solar
6 panel flies into my front yard? Who do
7 I call? Who comes to fix it?

8 My other question is all the heavy
9 traffic, the roads. Who repairs the
10 road? The dangerous intersection that
11 someone brought up before. I have been
12 there numerous times first on the
13 scene. Is our sheriff's department
14 even prepared to be able to come out,
15 because every time I call them they're
16 on the other side of the lake and it
17 takes a while for them to get to the
18 accident. We're going to have more
19 traffic and kids traveling the roads.

20 My second concern is regarding the
21 employees there are hired to install
22 the solar farms. I'm aware that
23 Invenergy is not hiring 80 percent of
24 Ohioans with background checks but
25 instead hiring out-of-state workers

1 that they falsely state as residents.

2 I have a teenage daughter. She's
3 home a lot of times. We live in a
4 country with no one around. What if
5 the workers walk over and try to do
6 harm? You have more thefts this way.

7 Again, we're right down the road
8 from a school. The school doesn't need
9 the money. We need to protect our
10 children from these people that we have
11 no idea of their background.

12 I feel this company is not a
13 trustworthy company and I'm terrified
14 what they will do if this project is
15 approved. They will take their
16 subsidized money and leave us with a
17 mess that is not sufficient that
18 actually raises our electricity costs
19 and we get nothing from it.

20 Then they go and sell to another
21 company just like they did in Hardin
22 County.

23 This project is not wanted by
24 Logan County residents and it does not
25 satisfy the public interest,

1 convenience, and necessity.

2 The Fountain Point Project should
3 be denied. Thank you.

4 MS. PARCELS: You mentioned that
5 you live in a quote unquote wind
6 tunnel. Approximately how long have
7 you lived near West Mansfield?

8 MS. DEARDURFF: I have lived in
9 the current residence -- we rented for
10 5 years and we just purchased a year
11 ago.

12 MS. PARCELS: That's all.

13 MS. SEE: Thank you.

14 Phil Morse? Phil Morse? Phil
15 Morse, please come down.

16 Ms. Benefiel, raise your right
17 hand.

18 LAUREL BENEFIEL

19 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
20 tell the truth, testified as follows:

21 MS. SEE: State and spell your
22 name for the record.

23 MS. BENEFIEL: My name is Laurel
24 Benefiel, L-A-U-R-E-L B-E-N-E-F-I-E-L.
25 I live at 11453 State Route 47 in West

1 Mansfield, Ohio.

2 MS. SEE: Are you a party to the
3 case?

4 MS. BENEFIEL: No.

5 MS. SEE: Do you live within the
6 project?

7 MS. BENEFIEL: Yes, I do.

8 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
9 your testimony.

10 MS. BENEFIEL: Good evening. My
11 name is Laurel Benefiel. I have lived
12 in West Mansfield for about 9 years.
13 Before that I grew up in Jerome, Ohio.
14 I loved there. It was a small peaceful
15 farm community.

16 Once the developers started buying
17 all the land and they began turning
18 Jerome into a large housing Mecca, I
19 sold my home and moved to West
20 Mansfield where I could once against
21 enjoy the peaceful country lifestyle.

22 Now my small piece of country life
23 may again be disrupted as the Fountain
24 Point Solar farm is proposed on all 3
25 sides of my house.

1 So instead of beautiful farmland
2 views, I may have views of hideous
3 fencing and 675,000 solar panels for
4 the rest of my life.

5 I also have the added worry of
6 decreased property values, added
7 traffic, hundreds of transient workers,
8 noise pollution, displacement of
9 wildlife, and possible drainage issues.

10 While I am not against solar, I am
11 a proponent for responsible site
12 placement. Placing solar panels on
13 2,700 acres of some of the nation's
14 most fertile soil is not responsible
15 site placement.

16 It is evidence that the Fountain
17 Point Solar farm is not welcome in this
18 area, as the residents have submitted
19 over a thousand letters of opposition
20 to the OPSB stating a multitude of
21 reasons why this project is not good
22 for Logan County.

23 I implore the OPSB to deny
24 operating permit for the Fountain Point
25 Solar Project due to the overwhelming

1 public opposition from Logan County
2 residents, and for the love of God it
3 is obvious this project does not fit
4 the public interest, convenience and
5 necessity.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. SEE: Donald Hays, step
8 forward.

9 Phil Morse? Mr. Morse, raise your
10 right hand.

11 PHIL MORSE

12 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
13 tell the truth, testified as follows:

14 MS. SEE: State and spell your
15 name for the record.

16 MR. MORSE: Phil Morse. Last name
17 is M-O-R-S-E.

18 MS. SEE: What is your address,
19 sir?

20 MR. MORSE: 4573 County Road 55 in
21 Bellefontaine.

22 MS. SEE: Are you a party in the
23 case?

24 MR. MORSE: No.

25 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in

1 the project area?

2 MR. MORSE: I do not.

3 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead.

4 MR. MORSE: Hello. Thank you for
5 holding space for this meeting and for
6 taking time for this important public
7 discussion. We appreciate it.

8 I live in Jefferson Township. I
9 have a master's degree in mechanical
10 engineering. I've worked
11 professionally as an engineer and as a
12 business strategy consultant for over
13 25 years. I've also served as an
14 associate professor for Central Ohio
15 Technical College's Renewable and
16 Sustainable Energy Program.

17 I can tell you that there are some
18 serious technical problems with large,
19 industrial-sized wind and solar power
20 generation schemes.

21 Sadly, not too many people are
22 aware of these problems and mistakenly
23 believe that utility-scale solar is no
24 different from residential scale, a way
25 to build a better tomorrow.

1 Many good-hearted and trusting
2 people have signed leases wherein they
3 have unknowingly surrendered their own
4 landlord rights.

5 You're hearing a lot of these
6 personal stories tonight. I'm going to
7 try to stick to a technical
8 perspective.

9 By way of example, let's have a
10 quick look at a generic 280 megawatt
11 solar power generation facility, not
12 too much unlike the proposed Fountain
13 Point Solar Project.

14 Furthermore, let's pretend we're
15 dealing with a big black box meaning
16 we're not super worried about what goes
17 on inside the box but how it works and
18 we're just interested in the sticker on
19 the side that says this box can produce
20 up to 280 megawatts.

21 I would like to walk you through
22 what that sticker should really say.
23 That sticker should say this box
24 produces an average of 42 megawatts.
25 That's an 85 percent reduction on the

1 sticker.

2 So let's start with 280 megawatts.
3 That's really the maximum power output
4 on a bright, sunny day with everything
5 working perfectly, but that's not what
6 we really want to know.

7 What we really want to know is
8 what happens when conditions are not
9 perfect. We want to know what's the
10 average over a month or a year like.

11 So here it is in a nutshell. I
12 have done the math on this and I'm just
13 going to go with the greatest hits
14 because of the time constraints.

15 Let's start with 280 megawatts
16 being delivered all the time around the
17 clock every day. We're going to chip
18 away at that immediately and knock that
19 50 percent down to 140, and that's
20 because the sun does not shine all day
21 long. The big black box goes to sleep
22 just like you do every night.

23 Peak sunlight occurs about 4 hours
24 or so around high noon so we knock it
25 down from 140 to 93 megawatts. Then

1 we're going to knock it down from 93 to
2 47 megawatts due to Ohio being only 30
3 percent clear-skied as blue sky places
4 such as Arizona and New Mexico and
5 such.

6 We're going to continue that 47
7 megawatt, knock it down another 10
8 percent. This has to do with
9 modulation, inversion and step-up
10 conversion losses that occur inside the
11 box. Lots to that but we won't get
12 into it.

13 There's also rain and dust and
14 bird debris and deterioration to
15 consider. 10 percent here is being
16 nice, trust me.

17 Anyway, this is what lands us at
18 42 megawatts. That's still a lot of
19 electricity, make no mistake, but it's
20 only 15 percent of the 280 that's
21 advertised on the sticker.

22 In the context of the Fountain
23 Point Project, this is a 2,800 acre
24 project. This turns into 67 acres of
25 land consumption per one megawatt of

1 power production. That's pretty
2 lackluster. You can also produce that
3 same one megawatt by filling one
4 bathtub with coal or three paperclip-
5 sized pieces of uranium.

6 You start to see why these mega
7 solar companies love the idea of
8 payment in lieu of taxes or pilot
9 programs. It's because their tax
10 records would too easily expose to
11 local authorities how very little
12 electricity they actually generate.

13 It's nothing like the placard,
14 nothing like the sticker. They
15 probably figure it would look
16 embarrassing for them if their 280
17 megawatt solar facility only paid taxes
18 on selling 15 percent of that. They're
19 not wrong.

20 Now, certainly the big box solar
21 companies know everything that I've
22 just said. They're smart. They can do
23 the math, but I don't think they're
24 terribly concerned about it.

25 My best guess is that these green

1 energy companies aren't too interested
2 in producing and supplying electricity
3 at all for anybody.

4 I think they're much more
5 interested in another type of green.
6 It's a shame. It's sad. It makes me
7 feel bad to see all these honest,
8 hard-working people who imagine being
9 good stewards to this planet getting
10 cheated and deceived by
11 government-incentivized corporate con
12 artists.

13 I don't know about you but I would
14 put land on the very top of my list of
15 non-renewable resources.

16 I would also say there's a little
17 bit of a difference between 3
18 paper clips and 67 acres.

19 Here's the thing as well. If
20 these companies really wanted to
21 produce and sell electricity, they sure
22 wouldn't be doing it on leased land in
23 Ohio. They'd be buying up big chunks
24 of sunny, unoccupied desert real estate
25 on the cheap. So, we know this is

1 obviously not their game.

2 We can't pretend to understand
3 what the real motives are for these
4 so-called green energy initiatives but
5 it's easy enough to identify four
6 unfortunate outcomes of getting into
7 bed with them: Destruction of private
8 wealth; destruction of productive land;
9 destruction of affordable and reliable
10 electricity as a utility; and
11 destruction of rural livelihoods and
12 well-being.

13 If you're at all familiar with the
14 sad stories --

15 MS. SEE: You are out of time.

16 MR. MORSE: In preventing this
17 Fountain Point Solar Project and any
18 others like it you'll be serving the
19 public interest by preserving land and
20 legacy for future generations --

21 MS. SEE: You're out of time.

22 MR. Morse: -- and by protecting
23 us from greedy predators. I would
24 think you'd be honored to serve the
25 public in this way.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. SEE: Next is Ms. Susan Neer.

3 Donald Hays, please raise your
4 right hand.

5 DONALD HAYS

6 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
7 tell the truth, testified as follows:

8 MS. SEE: State and spell your
9 name for the record and also state your
10 address.

11 MR. HAYS: Donald Hays,
12 D-O-N-A-L-D, H-A-Y-S. My address is
13 14029 State Route 47, West Mansfield.

14 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
15 the project area?

16 MR. HAYS: Yes.

17 MS. SEE: Are you a party to the
18 case?

19 MR. HAYS: Yes. I live in it.

20 MS. SEE: You live within the
21 project area?

22 MR. HAYS: Yes.

23 MS. SEE: Did you file to be a
24 party to the case?

25 MR. HAYS: No.

1 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
2 testimony.

3 MR. HAYS: Okay. I don't have a
4 prepared statement. I'm just
5 responding to what's been said tonight.

6 90 percent of what I have heard
7 out here is I'm not against solar but
8 not in my backyard.

9 Last summer we had a granddaughter
10 in Columbus for training at the Y
11 because she wasn't old enough to
12 lifeguard by herself. We dropped her
13 off and took off and went into town.
14 Guess what? No traffic lights. You
15 guys were having a brown-out.

16 They didn't have enough
17 electricity down there to even run the
18 traffic lights. None of the lights
19 were on. It is because they don't have
20 enough electricity.

21 Now, this project is not going to
22 cure that but it's a piece of the
23 puzzle. We've got to have it all
24 because the federal government is
25 wanting to shut down all of our

1 coal-powered plants. We have two
2 nuclear plants in this state that are
3 scheduled to be shut down. Davis-Besse
4 is already outdoing itself.

5 Where are we going to get our
6 power? We have got to do something.

7 Now, there is talk about the
8 drainage and ruining the drainage.
9 They had some problems in Hardin
10 County. I had two customers involved
11 in the project over there. They have
12 gone out and put all new tile in the
13 mains. They had to replace all the
14 laterals and stuff like that.

15 These people have a written
16 contract with them. They have to
17 replace -- fix the tile, not just scab
18 it together. They have to fix it.

19 They say we're losing farm around.
20 Most of the people out here their
21 houses are built on farm ground. Good
22 for me, not for you.

23 Productivity. You look at the
24 ground. When I started farming here
25 almost 40 years ago in the mid '80s

1 corn was making 142 bushel. Now we're
2 making 220 bushel and more.

3 Soybeans were making 42 bushel and
4 now we're making 70 or 75 a bushel.

5 Land values. If anything, price
6 of ground is going to go up because
7 there's less. Not just that. If you
8 have been out here to a land auction
9 lately, farm ground sell for \$10,000 an
10 acre or more. It's crazy.

11 Young people can't get into
12 farming. I have a son who farms with
13 me. He put his farm in this project
14 also.

15 Then we have rented ground over in
16 Union County. He's going to continue
17 with that and whatever ground we have
18 left over.

19 They said they never heard about
20 this. The commissioners knew about
21 this project from day one because as
22 soon as I contacted Invenergy they came
23 down and they said we want to do
24 something here. I was up at the
25 commissioner's office telling them

1 what's going on. They knew from day
2 one.

3 MS. SEE: Can you be more specific
4 about which commissioners you're
5 referring to?

6 MR. HAYS: Well, at that time Mike
7 was not there. You had --

8 MS. SEE: What board?

9 MR. HAYS: You had Paul Benedetti.

10 MS. SEE: Not names but what
11 commission or board?

12 MR. HAYS: County commissioners,
13 the 3 county commissioners were there.
14 Paul and Joe were ecstatic about it.
15 They wrote letters to you endorsing and
16 the third commissioner said I'm all for
17 solar but I'm not going to endorse your
18 project. He wouldn't say why. I don't
19 know.

20 Then after these guys got rowdy so
21 bad at the prior meeting for this --
22 when they came in here it was, vicious.
23 They did the same thing to the
24 Bokescreek Township. They went to them
25 and just brow beat them.

1 Go ahead. I have said enough.

2 Any questions?

3 MS. SEE: Any cross? Go ahead.

4 MS. PARCELS: Mr. Hays, you have a
5 lease with Invenergy?

6 MR. HAYS: Correct.

7 MS. PARCELS: When was your lease
8 recorded? Do you know?

9 MR. HAYS: I can't tell you.

10 MS. PARCELS: Okay. You indicated
11 that you went to the commissioners as
12 soon as you knew.

13 MR. HAYS: Yes.

14 MS. PARCELS: Was that before or
15 after you petitioned for the ditch
16 there that was completed in 2021 at the
17 county's expense?

18 MR. HAYS: The ditch?

19 MS. PARCELS: The ditch.

20 MR. HAYS: What ditch?

21 MS. PARCELS: The ditch to your
22 property.

23 MR. HAYS: Okay. That's a joint
24 project for a tile that went through my
25 farm and it went into Bryce's farm. It

1 went to Elliott's farm.

2 MS. PARCELS: Is it true that
3 those properties --

4 MS. PIRIK: Your Honor --

5 MS. SEE: Just a moment.

6 MS. PIRIK: Objection.

7 MR. HAYS: This is --

8 MS. SEE: Hold on. There is an
9 objection. Stop answering the
10 question. There's an objection.

11 MS. PIRIK: This is an
12 inappropriate line of questioning. It
13 has nothing to do with his direct
14 testimony and it is inappropriate.

15 MS. PARCELS: My question was
16 before or after Invenergy approached
17 him.

18 MS. PIRIK: The ditch language is
19 what I'm talking about.

20 MR. HAYS: That was going to
21 happen.

22 MS. SEE: Strike that from the
23 record.

24 As I informed you, there was an
25 objection outstanding. Wait until I

1 have ruled on the objection.

2 The objection is sustained. You
3 can move to your next question. If you
4 have concluded cross, we're done.

5 MS. PARCELS: I will move to my
6 next question. Did you communicate
7 with Invenergy about your ditch
8 petition?

9 MS. PIRIK: Objection. Same
10 objection, Your Honor. Drainage has
11 been raised as an issue.

12 MR. HAYS: Can I say something?

13 MS. SEE: No. The objection is
14 sustained. Do you have another
15 question?

16 MS. PARCELS: No further
17 questions.

18 MS. SEE: Thank you very much.

19 Ms. Neer, you're next to testify.

20 Cliff Cronkleton, step down and be
21 prepared to offer testimony.

22 SUSAN NEER

23 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
24 tell the truth, testified as follows:

25 MS. SEE: Please state your name

1 and spell your name and also state your
2 address.

3 MS. NEER: Susan Neer, N-E-E-R,
4 3743 Logan Road, Bellefontaine.

5 MS. SEE: Are you a party to the
6 case?

7 MS. NEER: No.

8 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
9 the project area?

10 MS. NEER: No.

11 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
12 your testimony.

13 MS. NEER: Okay. I was raised in
14 Logan County. I lived here 65 of my 67
15 years. I grew up on a dairy farm one
16 mile west of Pickrelltown.

17 I fully support the solar project.
18 I feel that the benefits far exceed the
19 concerns. I feel that the concerns
20 that have been brought up here tonight
21 have been adequately addressed.

22 Nobody complained about many
23 projects in this county that have taken
24 farm land, including the Bellefontaine
25 Municipal Airport which operates at a

1 loss every year. Nobody complains
2 about that.

3 If this project is rejected, I
4 just want the people to know that I
5 personally will vote against any school
6 levy or tax levy that goes on the
7 ballot in the future.

8 If you're going to turn away this
9 kind of money, I'm not going to be
10 penalized for that. I'm not going to
11 have my taxes go up. So, I will reject
12 that.

13 I also just want to say I feel
14 that it should be shame on the township
15 trustees and the county commissioners
16 for banning future products or
17 projects.

18 Nobody talked to me. My township
19 trustee was here tonight. At no point
20 did I ever talk to him about solar
21 projects. He never once asked me how I
22 felt about any of it.

23 So, them going out and then coming
24 up with these bans for future projects,
25 they're only talking to the people they

1 want to talk to. They're not talking
2 to everybody. It's not a fair
3 representation.

4 Also, in the future I won't be
5 voting for them either.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. SEE: Any cross?

8 Thank you very much.

9 Chad Carpenter, please come
10 forward.

11 Mr. Cronkleton, please raise your
12 right hand.

13 CLIFF CRONKLETON

14 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
15 tell the truth, testified as follows:

16 MS. SEE: State your name and
17 spell your name and state your address.

18 MR. CRONKLETON: Cliff Cronkleton,
19 C-L-I-F-F, C-R-O-N-K-L-E-T-O-N, 4764
20 State Road 47, Bellefontaine, Ohio.

21 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
22 case?

23 MR. CRONKLETON: Yes, ma'am.

24 MS. SEE: We announced at the
25 beginning that individuals who have

1 petitioned or filed a motion to be a
2 party to the case we're asking them to
3 go last.

4 Parties to the case will have an
5 opportunity to submit testimony at the
6 evidentiary hearing with the other
7 parties in Columbus.

8 I have asked the other parties to
9 hold on until the end, and I'm going to
10 do the same this time.

11 MR. CRONKLETON: When I signed up,
12 I checked the box that I was an
13 intervenor.

14 MS. SEE: Okay. Have seat. Hold
15 on until the end.

16 Mr. Carpenter?

17 Janie Carpenter?

18 Chad Carpenter, please raise your
19 right hand.

20 CHAD CARPENTER

21 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
22 tell the truth, testified as follows:

23 MS. SEE: State and spell your
24 name.

25 MR. CARPENTER: Chad Carpenter,

1 C-H-A-D C-A-R-P-E-N-T-E-R.

2 MS. SEE: State your address.

3 MR. CARPENTER: 6529 County Road
4 26, Bellefontaine.

5 MS. SEE: Mr. Carpenter, are you a
6 party to the case?

7 MR. CARPENTER: No.

8 MS. SEE: Do you work or live in
9 the project area?

10 MR. CARPENTER: I do. Both.

11 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
12 your testimony.

13 MR. CARPENTER: I don't have a
14 testimony so to speak, but I'm just
15 here to say that we have already went
16 through the process and the woman that
17 came up said she was never at any of
18 the meetings and knew none of this was
19 going on about the commissioners
20 signing these papers, she was open to
21 go. These meetings are open for the
22 public to go to.

23 You can come any time you want and
24 listen to what they have to say and
25 what's going on.

1 I think the public has already
2 spoke. We have a lot of people here
3 that went out and had petitions signed,
4 they talked to people, they sent Power
5 Board Siting Board letters, people have
6 talked.

7 The commissioners have passed
8 restrictions. I mean, is this not
9 black and white? If 16 out of 17
10 counties are -- or not counties --
11 townships in the county choose to
12 not -- to be restricted, does that not
13 speak volume?

14 I mean, how does that not let you
15 guys know that's what we want? The
16 majority of people -- and another one
17 of these ladies was talking and she
18 said I know I'm not speaking as the
19 majority here tonight, does that not
20 speak out saying yes, the majority here
21 are against it?

22 The commissioners are against it.
23 If they weren't, why did they sign a
24 restrictive area for pretty much all of
25 Logan County?

1 When you guys make your decision
2 on if you're going to let it happen or
3 not, I think that's the black and white
4 question is it's already been told to
5 you guys what we want, has it not?

6 That's how I'm ending it. I think
7 a lot of people had spoke a lot of
8 interesting things tonight and I feel
9 that -- I want you guys to know I'm
10 against the Power Plant Project and I
11 think people have already told you what
12 they want.

13 You guys have to listen and do it.

14 MS. SEE: Any questions?

15 Bob Stoll?

16 Ms. Carpenter, please raise your
17 right hand.

18 JANIE CARPENTER

19 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
20 tell the truth, testified as follows:

21 MS. SEE: State and spell your
22 name for the record and also state your
23 address.

24 MS. CARPENTER: My name is Janie
25 Carpenter, J-A-N-I-E,

1 C-A-R-P-E-N-T-E-R, 3003 State Route
2 292, West Mansfield, Ohio.

3 MS. SEE: Are you a party to the
4 case?

5 MS. CARPENTER: No.

6 MS. SEE: Do you work or reside in
7 the project area?

8 MS. CARPENTER: Yes.

9 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
10 testimony.

11 MS. CARPENTER: I'm going to let
12 you know I'm opposed to the Fountain
13 Point Solar Project. As you can tell
14 getting up here to speak in opposition
15 is not easy for me.

16 For one thing, I don't like
17 conflict but sometimes things just need
18 to be said.

19 A person I highly respect once
20 told me when you choose not to stand up
21 for what you know to be right, it's the
22 same as doing what is wrong.

23 I'm not going to go into detail
24 about why the world we live in is in
25 the shape it's in. The short answer is

1 when people choose to act in their own
2 self interest such as financial gain or
3 their own personal or political agenda
4 regardless how it affects their
5 friends, neighbors, and community it
6 causes division, division that you can
7 see going on in the world all around
8 us. I don't want that for my
9 community.

10 We need to be good stewards of our
11 natural resources and the God-given
12 beauty around us and doing just a
13 little research you will learn solar
14 energy is not efficient, especially in
15 areas with climate like hours.

16 You will also find that the
17 natural resources used to produce the
18 batteries alone don't justify building
19 these massive eyesores.

20 Then there's the problem with the
21 disposal of the toxic waste we are left
22 with when they are no longer
23 operational.

24 In short, for the majority of the
25 population there will be little to no

1 benefit from the solar projects.

2 Most importantly, what kind of
3 mess are we leaving for our children
4 and our grandchildren to have to deal
5 with?

6 I would like to thank you for
7 listening and I would ask you that you
8 please hear me.

9 MS. PARCELS: What township do you
10 live in?

11 MS. CARPENTER: Bokescreek
12 Township.

13 MS. SEE: Carie McCullough? Carie
14 McCullough?

15 Brandon Lane?

16 Brandon Lane, come down and be
17 prepared to offer testimony.

18 Mr. Stoll, raise your right hand.

19 BOB STOLL

20 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
21 tell the truth, testified as follows:

22 MS. SEE: State and spell your
23 name for the record and also state your
24 address.

25 MR. STOLL: My name is Bob Stoll,

1 B-O-B, S-T-O-L-L. I reside in
2 Jefferson Township.

3 MS. SEE: Would you state your
4 complete address, sir?

5 MR. STOLL: 5952 State Route 540,
6 Bellefontaine, Ohio, 43311.

7 MS. SEE: Are you a party to the
8 case?

9 MR. STOLL: No.

10 MS. SEE: Do you live or work
11 within the project area?

12 MR. STOLL: I live in Jefferson
13 Township.

14 MS. SEE: Is that a yes or no?

15 MR. STOLL: No.

16 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
17 testimony.

18 MR. STOLL: Land is a finite
19 resource. Most of us may not look at
20 it that way but there is no more land
21 being made.

22 The U.S. Is certainly flush with
23 land compared to other countries.
24 However, not all land is created equal.
25 Really productive land is made up of

1 prime soils. Those are the soils
2 identified by U.S.D.A. as having the
3 best combination of physical and
4 chemical characteristics for producing
5 food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed
6 crops and is available for these uses.

7 These soils need to be managed
8 using regenerative farming practices in
9 order to reduce the use of synthetic
10 fertilizers, increase water
11 infiltration, capture carbon, produce
12 nutrient dense foods, all of which
13 benefit human health.

14 There are only four areas in the
15 world consisting of about 3% of the
16 earth's surface that contain prime
17 soils: The Ukraine, China, Brazil,
18 Argentina, and the U.S. corn belt.

19 Within the U.S. corn belt the 4
20 largest states with prime soils are
21 Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Ohio.
22 Within Ohio, prime soils exist
23 primarily in the western half of the
24 state. Ohio has 13 1/2 million acres
25 of farmland, only 44 percent is

1 considered prime.

2 These soils impact food supplies
3 globally and impacts the ability to
4 raise food supplies for a growing
5 population with fewer impacts on the
6 environment.

7 What is trending? According to
8 the American Farmland Trust, 312,000
9 acres were lost to commercial,
10 industrial, residential, and utility
11 uses between 2001 and 2016.

12 In this part of Ohio, many farm
13 fields are relatively flat, easy to
14 develop, and cheap -- cheaper compared
15 to other parts of the country.

16 We need to look at prime soils and
17 farmland as a finite resource. Even if
18 land is converted back to agriculture
19 after development, research shows those
20 sites never produce what they once did
21 prior to the development.

22 In 1997 then Governor Voinovich
23 created the Ohio Farmland Protection
24 Policy by Executive Order because they
25 recognized that agricultural lands were

1 finite and cannot be created.

2 I'm a supporter of alternative
3 energy sources but not at the sake of
4 losing sensitive prime agricultural
5 soils.

6 More emphasis in locating large
7 industrial solar such as Fountain Point
8 to sites of existing commercial use
9 seems a much better and efficient
10 option.

11 The Fountain Point Project does
12 not satisfy the public interest, the
13 convenience, and necessity as required
14 by the decision criteria.

15 We need to look far into our
16 future and manage these land use
17 changes to minimize the impact to our
18 natural resources and to make them fit
19 social well-being of the general public
20 both now and for generations to come.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to
22 speak.

23 MS. SEE: Thank you.

24 A.J. Whitford?

25 Mr. Lane, please raise your right

1 hand.

2 BRANDON LANE

3 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
4 tell the truth, testified as follows:

5 MS. SEE: State and spell your
6 name for the record and also state your
7 address.

8 MR. LANE: My name is Brandon
9 Lane, B-R-A-N-D-O-N, L-A-N-E. My
10 address is 13358 County Road 2, West
11 Mansfield, Ohio.

12 MS. SEE: Okay. Do you live or
13 work in the project area?

14 MR. LANE: No, ma'am.

15 MS. SEE: Are you a party to the
16 case?

17 MR. LANE: No, ma'am.

18 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
19 testimony.

20 MR. LANE: Good evening. Thank
21 you all for coming to hear us all speak
22 tonight.

23 My name is Brandon Lane. I have
24 lived on County Road 2 for about 21
25 years. I recently purchased a property

1 in Perry Township right next door to
2 West Mansfield, Ohio.

3 Recycling solar panels, according
4 to the National Renewable Energy
5 Laboratory --

6 MS. SEE: Mr. Lane, pull the mic.
7 down.

8 MR. LANE: Recycling solar panels,
9 according to the National Renewable
10 Energy Laboratory, recycling a solar
11 panel in America can cost about 15 to
12 \$45 a panel. That's without paying
13 someone minimum wage about \$15 an hour
14 to dismantle a panel at the size of 65
15 inches by 39 inches.

16 Too many consumers choose to get
17 rid of their panels in 10 to 15 years
18 as opposed to 30 years. Discard --
19 discarding panels could outnumber new
20 panels installed by 2 1/2 times in 2035
21 compounding to the need to increase,
22 re-use solutions. Early retired solar
23 panels usually retain 70 to 90 percent
24 of their original capacity.

25 However, few solar manufactures

1 currently invest in repairs -- to
2 prepare panels for secondary life
3 resale because repair costs often
4 exceed resale profits.

5 Some people think it's as easy as
6 recycling copper, cabling, or aluminum
7 cans that can be easily recycled.

8 Aluminum cans you can shred it up,
9 crush it, or heat it up, and smell the
10 ingots.

11 Same goes for copper. A solar
12 panel costs \$45 a panel to dismantle,
13 to sever, shred, milling, to then
14 turning it into its secondary thermal
15 processing just to separate the metal.
16 What you get back is around \$12.00 when
17 you take into the cost of paying the
18 middleman, stripping the panel down,
19 melting it down, the metal worth itself
20 aluminum, copper, glass, lead,
21 silicone, silver and tin. A large
22 business is not going to sit around
23 30-year old solar panels to try to get
24 the metals back into the market to help
25 the environment.

1 The business will have already
2 collected millions in revenue from the
3 government for installing these panels.

4 Whatever electric revenue the
5 panels generate in a 30-year life span,
6 if it even makes it to 30 years without
7 upgrading or failure, that company will
8 mostly not take the time or manpower to
9 shift the panels to a recycling center
10 across the country to a recycling
11 center.

12 I can almost bet they will
13 return -- they will turn around and
14 send the solar panels to the closest
15 land fill in our beautiful state
16 because there will not be a cheaper
17 route.

18 I'm 25 years old. I'm supposed --
19 what am I supposed to tell my children
20 in about 10 years when they ask me:
21 Dad, why do I have to put those -- why
22 do we have to drive by those solar
23 panels in the middle of the cornfield
24 where beans, corn, and hay is supposed
25 to be at?

1 The State of Ohio is mostly
2 cloudy. Why put solar panels in a
3 state that doesn't have constant
4 sunlight?

5 I want our farm business to stay
6 farm business. I hope you do too.

7 Please deny this solar project.
8 Thank you.

9 MS. SEE: Any cross?

10 Sheila Ballinger?

11 Mr. Whitford, raise your right
12 hand.

13 A.J. WHITFORD

14 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
15 tell the truth, testified as follows:

16 MS. SEE: State and spell your
17 name and also state your address.

18 MR. WHITFORD: Anthony Whitford,
19 W-H-I-T-F-O-R-D, 595 Poppy Lane,
20 Marysville, Ohio.

21 MS. SEE: Are you a party to the
22 case?

23 MR. WHITFORD: No, ma'am.

24 MS. SEE: You're not a party to
25 the case. Do you live in the project

1 area?

2 MR. WHITFORD: No, ma'am.

3 MS. SEE: Go ahead and give us
4 your testimony.

5 MR. WHITFORD: All right. First
6 of all, the first thing I want to say
7 is I do share in the gentleman's behind
8 me outrage that my government-elected
9 official who has an opinion on
10 something then has to vote a different
11 way because his constituents say so. I
12 thought we lived in a democracy but I
13 guess not. I think that's completely
14 unfair.

15 Beyond that, as I mentioned, I
16 don't live here. I used to. My
17 parents still do.

18 You guys don't care what I think
19 because I don't live here, but you
20 should care what they think. You
21 should care what people's who their
22 homes are still here think.

23 The Revised Code lists public
24 interest, convenience, and necessity.
25 I don't know how you argue necessity

1 for a power farm that doesn't provide
2 power here. I don't know you can argue
3 convenience for a year-long
4 construction process and something that
5 ultimately adds only power when they
6 all afterwards.

7 I don't know how you guard public
8 interest when you see the display that
9 you see tonight that has been very
10 one-sided.

11 2 months ago this board -- not you
12 personally -- but you the board
13 rejected a similar proposal in counties
14 based on 82 percent rejection rate or
15 opposition rate.

16 You cited local opposition to the
17 project. This feels very similar to
18 me.

19 On August 11th the Logan County
20 Board of Commissioners passed
21 Resolution 196.22. It doesn't block
22 what's happening but I think it makes
23 their intent very clear. I think the
24 letters -- I think the county
25 commissioners, I think all of it makes

1 their intent very clear.

2 So, the only thing this comes down
3 to is whether you as the board will
4 step in and you will defend the rights
5 of the people who live here, the
6 majority of the people who live here,
7 to make their own decisions with what
8 corporations they will allow in their
9 backyards. I hope you do.

10 MS. SEE: Any cross?

11 Ms. Ballinger, please raise your
12 right hand.

13 SHEILA BALLINGER

14 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
15 tell the truth, testified as follows:

16 MS. SEE: State and spell your
17 name for the record and state your
18 address.

19 MS. BALLINGER: Sheila,
20 S-H-E-I-L-A, Ballinger,
21 B-A-L-L-I-N-G-E-R, 319 West Center
22 Street, West Mansfield, Ohio.

23 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
24 case?

25 MS. BALLINGER: No.

1 MS. SEE: Do you work or live in
2 the project area?

3 MS. BALLINGER: Yes, I live in it.

4 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
5 testimony.

6 MS. BALLINGER: Good evening.
7 Thank you for having us all and
8 listening to all of us tonight.

9 First, I want to let you know that
10 I'm opposed to the solar project. I am
11 not opposed to solar.

12 As many have said, if you want to
13 use it on your home, I think that's
14 great. If you want to rely on that,
15 that is everybody's choice, but when
16 the -- I do agree when people make a
17 choice to put a large, industrial-type
18 facility in other people's -- basically
19 in other people's backyards, it does
20 become a concern.

21 I have lived in West Mansfield
22 about 20 years and we have a lot of
23 flooding already, 2 inches more
24 flooding that will be inside my house.
25 We cannot get flood insurance because

1 we don't live in a flood zone.

2 I have a big concern if they put
3 these in and it messes with the
4 ecosystem and starts creating a big
5 mess with the tiles, they break, they
6 don't fix them appropriately. It only
7 takes one time that they don't know
8 when the tile is broken for a house or
9 houses to be flooded.

10 Invenergy is not going to pay me
11 to fix my house. My insurance won't
12 pay me for my house to get fixed. I'm
13 retired. My husband is retired. We
14 can't afford to get it fixed.

15 I have a concern the way the
16 ecosystem works in the area and not
17 being able to really promise the
18 company -- the corporation to promise
19 that they -- I know they say they're
20 going to fix them, but fixing one after
21 my house is flooded won't help me or
22 it's not going to help other residents
23 of our community in West Mansfield.
24 They get a lot of flooding there.
25 There are a lot of sump pumps that run

1 just due to old tiles and the flooding
2 that comes in off of the fields.

3 It's a great big concern for our
4 area. I also have a big concern about
5 the EMF waves, the electronic -- you
6 know what I -- do you understand what I
7 mean by EMF waves?

8 They do put off the -- the
9 inverters, they emit electronic waves
10 and it can be harmful to humans or
11 animals. Nobody has done the study to
12 know whether it is or not.

13 I have an implanted
14 neuro-stimulator in my body and I have
15 a concern that those waves could
16 interfere with my implant and that
17 could be detrimental to my health, my
18 daily living within my home, being
19 around my friends, and my commarades
20 and neighbors that I made friends with
21 over the years.

22 I don't feel like they have really
23 done enough surveys and studies on that
24 to prove to me that I am not going to
25 be physically harmed because of the

1 fact that I do have something that EMF
2 can interfere with.

3 I also have witnesssed myself an
4 eagle right in the middle of County
5 Road 12 eating dead prey in the road.
6 That was the most awesome thing I ever
7 seen. I have seen it in the zoo but
8 you're this far away from them, here to
9 there. To see one from here to here
10 away from me was amazing.

11 If they put these big solar panels
12 up, the birds could get confused. Not
13 only do they put off these EMF waves
14 but the birds get confused and they
15 can't hunt anymore because they don't
16 have enough hunting grounds.

17 I have seen pictures of them
18 where, you know, right around where
19 they're going to put one of the solar
20 panels and they're going to leave and
21 we waited so long to be able to show
22 our kids and grandkids, you know, to
23 show our kids and grandkids something
24 that's not in the zoo and they really
25 do exist in the real world.

1 I do believe that the owners do
2 have a right to do what they want to do
3 but I think they still have to be good
4 stewards of the land and have to make
5 sure that it works with their whole
6 community around them because we have a
7 stake in it too. It's our homes too.
8 Thank you very much.

9 MS. SEE: Any cross?

10 Keith Engel, raise your right
11 hand.

12 KEITH ENGEL

13 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
14 tell the truth, testified as follows:

15 MS. SEE: State and spell your
16 name and also give your address.

17 MR. ENGEL: Keith Engel,
18 K-E-I-T-H, E-N-G-E-L. My address is
19 12590 Langstaff, L-A-N-G-S-T-A-F-F,
20 Bridgeport, Ohio.

21 MS. SEE: Are you a party in the
22 case?

23 MR. ENGEL: No, I'm not.

24 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
25 the project area?

1 MR. ENGEL: No, I do not.

2 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
3 testimony.

4 MR. ENGEL: I would like to thank
5 you guys for allowing me to speak
6 tonight. I'm not a resident of Logan
7 County. I'm actually a resident of
8 Union County and I wasn't prepared to
9 speak tonight. I was planning to see
10 how these proceedings proceed.

11 But as I sat here listening to the
12 testimony, several things came to mind
13 that I wanted to share with you.

14 In 1974 Henry Kissinger gave a
15 very profound quote. He said: He who
16 controls the food, controls the people;
17 he who controls the energy, can control
18 whole continents; he who controls the
19 money controls the world.

20 That's a very, very profound
21 statement and want to dissect that
22 statement a little bit. He who
23 controls the food, controls the people.
24 One of the primary concerns about this
25 project is that it's being put on prime

1 farm ground.

2 I can't state all my sources
3 tonight because I wasn't prepared to
4 speak, but just today I read a report
5 that said that since colonization we
6 have lost 35 percent of our topsoil.
7 That's 35 percent of farmlands that's
8 no longer going to produce the same
9 crops that it did since the 1600's.
10 That's all prime soil.

11 So, as we take away additional
12 prime farm ground for these solar
13 companies, and it's taking massive
14 amounts of ground.

15 For the projects that are
16 currently slated for Union County: The
17 two that are already approved plus this
18 project, and they cover an area of
19 about 10 miles wide and 13 miles tall.
20 11,000 acres are being consumed in that
21 geographic area. We are
22 over-saturating this area and consuming
23 11,000 acres of prime farmland for
24 these solar projects.

25 There are other energy resources

1 that don't require that type of
2 footprint.

3 The next statement was he who
4 controls the energy, can control
5 continents. The fact of the matter is
6 this is not going to be an Ohio company
7 that owns this solar farm. Whoever
8 owns this solar farm is going to own
9 that energy. They can dictate what
10 they do with that energy. If they
11 don't want to produce this much, they
12 can cale it up. If they want to
13 produce more -- you know, they can't go
14 past capacity, but, you know, they can
15 control the feat of that energy. They
16 control our people.

17 Then the final statement that was
18 made from that was he who controls the
19 money, controls the world.

20 I think that Susan Seeley who
21 talked about the money for the schools
22 made a very great point. It's money
23 for the school. The solar energy
24 companies control the money so they're
25 using that money to buy the school's

1 support.

2 Then the school that wants that
3 money indoctrinates our children to
4 think that we have to have this solar
5 energy. It's all about control. It's
6 all about the money.

7 The only thing green about the
8 renewable energy sources is the dollar
9 bill.

10 I'm opposed to putting any of
11 these solar companies on prime farm
12 ground. Our federal government has
13 already stated they would like to see
14 these in non-crowded areas like in
15 strip mines.

16 In closing, I just wanted to state
17 my opposition to this. I will support
18 my neighbors of Logan County, and
19 that's it. Thank you.

20 MS. SEE: Alyssa Rice? Alyssa
21 Rice?

22 While Ms. Rice is coming down to
23 offer testimony, Jocelyn Kavanagh.

24 Ms. Rice, raise your right hand.

25 ALYSSA RICE

1 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
2 tell the truth, testified as follows:

3 MS. SEE: Please state and spell
4 your name for the record.

5 MS. RICE: My name is Alyssa Rice.
6 A-L-Y-S-S-A, R-I-C-E.

7 MS. SEE: You represented that
8 you're a party in the case?

9 MS. RICE: Yes.

10 MS. SEE: Do know that parties
11 will have an opportunity to offer
12 testimony at the evidentiary hearing in
13 Columbus?

14 MS. RICE: Yes. I'm looking
15 forward to it.

16 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
17 the project area?

18 MS. RICE: I do.

19 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
20 your testimony.

21 MS. RICE: My name is Alyssa Rice.
22 I'm a farmer. I live just outside West
23 Mansfield which is right next to where
24 Fountain Point Solar Project would like
25 to be.

1 I'm here to share my thoughts on
2 this proposed project and I will start
3 by saying that the thoughts I'm sharing
4 tonight are my own and that no utility
5 company bought me dinner or asked me to
6 speak on their behalf.

7 What I want to share with you is a
8 little bit about this community and who
9 we are and what we believe in.

10 Welcome to Benjamin Logan High
11 School. I graduated here in 2006 and
12 this is a school district that will be
13 impacted by this project. Our FFA and
14 agricultural classes are located right
15 outside that door.

16 After my education ended here, I
17 was fortunate enough to attend college
18 and have jobs in different states over
19 the past 10 years. Of all the places I
20 have lived and all the other jobs I
21 have worked, living here and farming
22 this land with my brother has been the
23 greatest honor.

24 I choose to live and work here
25 because I love it. It is my home. The

1 construction of this project directly
2 threatens the things that I love. Not
3 only do the residents not want this
4 project but the future generations of
5 farmers will suffer greatly and may no
6 longer exist if this project does go
7 on.

8 I understand why land owners
9 signed up for this project, because I
10 was there. A few years ago Invenergy
11 approached my family during one of the
12 worst years we have had. A smiling
13 sales representative from the
14 corporation came into our home and sat
15 at our dining room table sold us
16 immediate financial stability with a
17 guaranteed future increase, and that is
18 something that does not exist in
19 farming.

20 Then Invenergy sent public
21 relations professionals to our small
22 town and they sat in our living room
23 and said they talked to all of our
24 neighbors and that everyone was in
25 support of this project. Clearly, that

1 was a lie.

2 This public relations team hired
3 by Invenergy told us that the project
4 would be able to provide special funds
5 to buy a new fire truck and EMS
6 equipment. Is the reason they offered
7 this equipment because we are now at a
8 higher risk? Are these projects
9 dangerous?

10 My family has asked to be let of
11 our lease project. This project
12 started with 3,800 acres. It's been
13 rolled back to 2,700. Yes, they won't
14 release the land owners of the contract
15 of the land they say they will not use.

16 When the leases were signed, we
17 were promised things like new tree
18 lines to protect our views and our
19 requests have been denied. Over the
20 course of our relationship with this
21 company we have been mislead many times
22 and deeply regret our involvement, but
23 don't let our mistake be your mistake.

24 The majority of residents who have
25 spoken out against this, the township

1 trustees voted on the resolutions
2 against it, and our county
3 commissioners, have to put a ban on
4 future projects like this one.

5 The short-term gains for the
6 minority are not worth the long-term
7 devastation to the next generation of
8 the people who want to farm here.

9 After learning more about
10 Invenergy and reading the reports
11 filled with the information that they
12 paid for, I have a lot of concerns
13 about what all this means for my
14 community. If you agree with what they
15 want you to read, you will see "local"
16 used over and over again. What does
17 that word mean to them?

18 I guess it's easier for someone
19 sitting at a desk in an office
20 somewhere to simply lump all of Logan
21 County into one local community in
22 their map. I'll bet "local" means
23 something different to people living in
24 Bokescreek Township, the target area
25 for this project.

1 If this project goes through local
2 people, the real people who actually
3 live here, will have to stare at the
4 fences and stare at all their ruined
5 land. Real local people will get zero
6 benefit from this. And as far as our
7 greatest assets are our land and the
8 people who work that land, if this
9 proposed solar project is approved the
10 next 3 to 4 generations here will never
11 step foot on that land again, will
12 never plant another seed, harvest
13 another crop, will never lead the
14 cattle to the next pasture. We will
15 not be able to teach our children, the
16 future farmers, how to manage and care
17 for this land.

18 With no farms and no farmers, what
19 will it be like to live here? This
20 project threatens the generational
21 farming in this community.

22 Land is extremely hard to come by,
23 and if you have to farm you either work
24 the family land, get fortunate enough
25 to lease land from a family who isn't

1 directly farming those lands. Some
2 land owners say we are the lucky one
3 that makes the highest bid.

4 It takes land to grow crops and
5 and raise livestock. It takes
6 knowledge and wisdom to do it
7 effectively and sustainably.

8 The land and the knowledge is
9 typically passed down from one
10 generation to the next. Every year we
11 learn something new and the next year
12 we try to do it a little bit better.

13 Farming takes time and energy and
14 effort. If you take one week off, you
15 pay for it when you get back. What's
16 it going to be like when we take 45
17 years off?

18 If you're interested in the future
19 of this community, ask the people who
20 choose to live here, work here, and
21 send their kids to this school.

22 Don't trust the information in a
23 report from a corporation headquartered
24 somewhere else that has absolutely no
25 genuine interest in the future of our

1 small town in Logan County, Ohio.

2 On behalf of the home that I love,
3 the people who built it, and the people
4 who continue to make it wonderful,
5 don't do it.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. SEE: I'm going to ask that
8 you hold your applause until the end
9 because we're getting long into the
10 evening and we have quite a few more to
11 go. If you could just hold your
12 applause, I would appreciate it.

13 Anthony Cogossi? I still
14 butchered your name.

15 Anthony Cogossi, you're up next,
16 sir.

17 Ms. Kavanagh, raise your right
18 hand.

19 JOCELYN KAVANAGH

20 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
21 tell the truth, testified as follows:

22 MS. SEE: You represented that
23 you're a party, correct?

24 MS. KAVANAGH: Yes.

25 MS. SEE: What's your address?

1 MS. KAVANAGH: 2339 County Road 8,
2 West Mansfield.

3 MS. SEE: And do you live or work
4 in the project area?

5 MS. KAVANAGH: No, but my home is
6 in the original footprint of the
7 proposed project.

8 MS. SEE: And what township?

9 MS. KAVANAGH: Perry.

10 MS. SEE: Go ahead.

11 MS. KAVANAGH:

12 Let's cut to the chase.

13 This proposed project by
14 Invenergy, LLC, Limited Liability
15 Corporation, was never intended to meet
16 the public interest, convenience, and
17 necessity.

18 I've lived in Perry Township forf
19 over 27 years. Neither myself nor my
20 husband knew anything about a utility
21 scale solar prlject, not even rumors,
22 until the public meeting was announced
23 for Janueary 2022. Invenergy, LLC
24 started acquiring leases in Januar of
25 2019, 3 years prior. Why the big

1 secret? How do small communities like
2 West Mansfield, Ridgeway, Belle Center
3 and Rushsylvania not talk about a
4 project that will claim almost 3,860
5 acres of prime farm ground with solar
6 panels for 45 years?

7 I attended the Perry and
8 Bokescreek Township meetings in June of
9 2022. Daniel Vertucci, Invenergy's
10 representative, announced that there
11 would be a reduction in size of the
12 proposed project area, reducing the
13 project by eliminating Perry Township
14 in its entirety.

15 Invenergy officially filed their
16 application for reduction to the OPSB
17 on August 23, 2022.

18 It's all there in black and white.
19 They never cared about us in Perry
20 Township. They never cared that 45
21 percent of the project's homes would be
22 surrounded by solar, and that number,
23 45 percent, doesn't include property
24 owners like ourselves that weren't
25 directly adjacent to a solar field.

1 If we were to leave our home, we
2 would have had no way to travel in any
3 direction without passing a solar
4 field. They didn't care that 37
5 percent of the project's trees would
6 have been, and I quote, "cleared,"
7 unquote.

8 They never cared about the quality
9 of water for West Mansfield residents,
10 a solar field right next to the water
11 treatment plant, and Mill Creek, and I
12 quote, "a waterbody with potential to
13 support sensitive wildlife species,"
14 unquote.

15 They didn't care about the
16 wildlife habitat that entailed 50
17 percent of forested acres being fenced
18 in. They didn't care about our general
19 health exposure to EMFs, our safety,
20 the solar panels end-of-life disposal
21 and storage, and our welfare, my
22 property values and visual impact.

23 Their proposed project will
24 permanently damage prime farmland, the
25 preservation of which is a recognized

1 public good.

2 Why and how do I make this claim?
3 Because the real truth is out there.
4 Invenergy was unsuccessful in acquiring
5 property in Perry Township for at least
6 one easement to connect the land that
7 had been leased for solar. Your board
8 has a responsibility to ask Invenergy
9 for that information. Where were those
10 proposed properties that had to be
11 leased to complete this utility scale
12 project? You need to verify the real
13 reasons for the reduction. But wait,
14 let me guess, another secret of
15 Invenergy, LLC that we aren't privy to.
16 There went the transparency once again
17 of big corporations.

18 Invenergy, LLC is here for one
19 reason only: The profitability of
20 their corporation, huge government
21 subsidies amounting to no less than 50
22 percent, and our infrastructure already
23 in place with the PJM grid.

24 I would like to finish with a
25 quote by Sir David Frederick

1 Attenborough, a renowned British
2 broadcaster, naturalist, biologist,
3 natural historian and author, and with
4 no less than 10 documentaries he's been
5 an integral part of: It seems to me
6 that the natural world is the greatest
7 source of excitement; the greatest
8 source of visual beauty; the greatest
9 source of intellectual interest. It is
10 the greatest source of so much in life
11 that makes life worth living.

12 I, Jocelyn Kavanagh, am opposed to
13 the Fountain Point Utility Scale Solar
14 Project.

15 This project does not meet the
16 public interest, convenience, and
17 necessity. It should be denied. Save
18 our homes, our rural nature, our
19 landscape, our lifestyles and our
20 productive agricultural farm ground.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. SEE: Thank you.

23 Jeny Hammer, step forward and be
24 ready to offer testimony.

25 Mr. Cogossi, raise your right

1 hand.

2 ANTHONY COGOSSI

3 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
4 tell the truth, testified as follows:

5 MS. SEE: State and spell your
6 name for the record and also give your
7 address.

8 MR. COGOSSI: My name is Anthony
9 Cogossi, A-N-T-H-O-N-Y, C-O-G-O-S-S-I.
10 My address is 10970 State Route 47,
11 West Mansfield, Ohio.

12 MS. SEE: And you're a party in
13 the proceeding?

14 MR. COGOSSI: I am.

15 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
16 the project area?

17 MR. COGOSSI: I live in the
18 project area.

19 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
20 testimony.

21 MR. COGOSSI: Hello. My name is
22 Anthony Cogossi and I am here to
23 present my views on why I oppose
24 industrial solar complexes in any form,
25 in any Logan County, Ohio location. I

1 am against the proosed industrial solar
2 complex and an intervener for the
3 Fountain Point Solar. I live on State
4 Route 47, a little over one mile west
5 of West Mansfield limits.

6 We purchased our forever home in
7 November 2020. The home was built in
8 1920 and was part of a local farming
9 family in Logan County. The house was
10 eventually sold from the farming family
11 and changed hands a number of times
12 prior to going up for sale in November
13 2020.

14 My wife and I quickly purchased the
15 home in a distressed condition where
16 major renovations took place the next
17 several months. Our friends and
18 family took part in the laborious task
19 of demolishing the interior in the
20 hopes to update plumbing, electrical,
21 and insulation to make the home
22 efficient.

23 In June of 2021 we moved in and
24 started living country life in Logan
25 County. Rather than tearing down the

1 existing structure, we preserved the
2 original framing of the house.

3 I would like to first talk about
4 the macro views on why I believe
5 industrial solar is not sustainable,
6 from the metal mining required, carbon
7 footprint from manufacturing, through
8 the inability to recycle end-of-life
9 panels. Afterwards, I will discuss the
10 micros.

11 Macros. The views I believe are
12 best laid out in a video from Prager U
13 titled "What's Wrong with Sind and
14 Solar? If we want to be good stewards
15 of the planet, we need to understand
16 some simple physics that are not talked
17 about. All sources of energy have
18 limits that can't be exceeded. The
19 maximum rate at which the sun's protons
20 can be converted to electrons is 33
21 percent. Our best solar technology is
22 at 26 percent efficiency. We are
23 pretty close to reaching solar limits,
24 not to mention West Mansfield receiving
25 approximately less than 175 days of sun

1 where the U.S. Average is 205 days.
2 Not exactly clear why this locations
3 was selected if efficiency is a goal,
4 or maybe not.

5 When a foreign company to the U.S.
6 Gets to use a foreign currency to carry
7 out their desires, why would they care?

8 If putting aside the physics
9 aspect, do you want to continue to
10 destroy our environment with solar
11 projects built of non-recyclable
12 materials?

13 Ask this question. Why would a
14 foreign owned company be concerned
15 about the health outside their county
16 or country with processes known to
17 manufacture toxic, non-recyclable solar
18 panels?

19 The materials to build a 1
20 megawatt solar photovoltaic plant
21 requires 70 tons of glass, 56 tons of
22 steel, 47 tons of concrete, 19 tons of
23 aluminum, 7 tons of silicon, 7 tons of
24 copper, and 6 tons of plastic.

25 Are the chemicals used in solar

1 panels toxic? Yes. Cadmium telluride
2 and copper indium selenide are used in
3 large commercial or utility
4 applications. The inability to recycle
5 these panels with a life span less than
6 half of the life expectancy in the U.S.
7 The entire carbon footprint and
8 toxicity from the manufacturing cycle,
9 expected life of the panels, with
10 non-recyclable panels that cannot go to
11 a landfill, creates more pollution than
12 what any panel or solar complex can
13 ever replace from fossil fuels.

14 Micros. We were not contacted at
15 all by any energy company regarding the
16 proposal of an industrial solar complex
17 near our residence. I now understand
18 why. There is no need to contact a
19 resident near a proposed industrial
20 solar complex when federal tax dollars
21 are funding a money grab project with
22 no return on investment for the
23 community.

24 Money for schools? The local
25 school district already has a balanced

1 budget due to fiscal responsibility
2 being executed.

3 In reviewing prior proposals sent
4 to the Ohio Power Siting Board, it is
5 in the record where properties received
6 property value guarantees. What values
7 are guaranteed? Tax assessment values?
8 Market values? No one want their house
9 next to an industrial solar complex
10 where their home value is guaranteed to
11 decrease.

12 Why would I want the home we
13 purchased, worked on tirelessly,
14 sometimes 20-hour days, all to lose
15 value? We enjoy our neighbors and
16 locations. Had we known there was even
17 a chance an industrial site of any kind
18 would be going in, we would not have
19 purchased the house and made the
20 investment we did.

21 Our house sits on the south side
22 of State Route 47 where our largest
23 windows on the first floor and a second
24 floor bedroom window overlook to the
25 north where the proposed industrial

1 solar complex would be located. I
2 can't imagine, however, maybe the Ohio
3 Power Siting Board can with this light
4 on, know what it would be like looking
5 out our windows during a summer day
6 when the panels are directed south.
7 How about being outside and looking out
8 across the field as I work on our barn
9 which was also built in the early
10 1900's? Why are these valid concerns?
11 Elevation. Our house sits at a higher
12 elevation than the field where the
13 proposed industrial solar complex would
14 be installed. The field has an 8 to 10
15 foot drop from State Route 47.

16 What about fences? A 20-foot
17 fence would not block any glare coming
18 from the panels given the elevation.
19 If we wanted to stare at fences, we
20 would have stayed in the city and
21 admired all of the fences in the
22 housing developments.

23 MS. SEE: You have 30 seconds.

24 MR. COGOSSI: An article regarding
25 glare written by Terry Penney who is a

1 senior occupational, health, and safety
2 professional and is located in the same
3 country Invenergy is based in, Canada,
4 Terry has 30 years experience --

5 MS. SEE: Sir, you are out of
6 time.

7 MR. COGOSSI: Thank you for your
8 time.

9 MS. SEE: Any cross? Thank you.
10 Jim Culp, step forward and be
11 ready to testify.

12 Ms. Hammer, please raise your
13 right hand.

14 JENY HAMMER

15 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
16 tell the truth, testified as follows:

17 MS. SEE: State and spell your
18 name for the record and also state your
19 address.

20 MS. HAMMER: Jeny Hammer, J-E-N-Y
21 H-A-M-M-E-R. My address is 2532 State
22 Route 292, West Mansfield.

23 MS. SEE: You're a party to the
24 case?

25 MS. HAMMER: Yes, ma'am.

1 MS. SEE: You recognize that
2 there's an opportunity for you to offer
3 testimony at the evidentiary hearing?

4 MS. HAMMER: Yes.

5 MS. SEE: But you choose to offer
6 testimony here this evening?

7 MS. HAMMER: Yes.

8 MS. SEE: Do you work or live in
9 the project area?

10 MS. HAMMER: I live on an
11 adjoining property owner.

12 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
13 testimony.

14 MS. HAMMER: Good evening. My
15 husband and I started building our
16 beautiful home over 21 years ago. I'm
17 an adjoining property owner and am
18 opposed to the Fountain Creek Project
19 for many reasons as you may already
20 know from the letters I have sent to
21 you.

22 I would like to repeat that solar
23 glare or glint, as they call it, will
24 shine right towards our home and the
25 panels behind us facing east and west.

1 Our backyard panels glaring in our
2 windows and our eyes is detrimental.

3 I will also reiterate our concern
4 for electrical fires. They are
5 becoming more chronic. The bribes that
6 Fountain Point bribes our fire
7 departments with won't stop an
8 electrical fire nor will it save our
9 lives or replace our home if there were
10 to be a fair.

11 As far as property rights, all the
12 adjoining properties also have rights.
13 This is not about personal property
14 rights but about the community as a
15 whole paying for an industrial solar
16 complex being built on personal
17 property. Invenergy states it will not
18 affect property values. What do you
19 consider when you buy a home in the
20 country? It's location and view.

21 What effect do you think a 2,768
22 acres of farmland with 675,000 solar
23 panels surrounded by steel, 7-foot high
24 fencing throughout our rural community
25 that adjoins Columbus will have on

1 property values?

2 If approved, we will be located
3 inside an industrial power plant with
4 no country view from our property.
5 People move away from the noise in the
6 city from industrial sites and ugly
7 views just to have beautiful, quiet,
8 serene surroundings. People pay more
9 for homes like this. People like us
10 work hard to save for years for a slice
11 of beautiful land in the countryside.

12 Don't you think destroying the
13 view of the countryside engulfing the
14 homes and communities will have a
15 negative effect on your property
16 values?

17 I really don't approve of this if
18 the project is approved and I beg you
19 not to destroy our home.

20 The first fact that you should be
21 aware of is Bokescreek has only one
22 trustee that can speak. The other 2
23 have a conflict of interest as
24 leaseholders in this project. This one
25 trustee remaining is the only trustee

1 in Logan County to approve this
2 project, and in contrast a majority of
3 trustees have filed letters in
4 opposition. I believe this speaks in
5 or itself that Logan County, along with
6 Bokescreek and Rushcreek do not want to
7 have farmland with industrial solar.
8 Not only will it ruin the adjoining
9 properties, it will ruin Logan County.

10 Another important finding of mine
11 speaks of the transparency of
12 Invenergy.

13 As an Intervener, I'm not a
14 specialist when it comes to solar
15 projects. However, I can competently
16 cross reference, compare the current
17 project map, look up parts of the Logan
18 County auditor to verify that their
19 information is correct.

20 What I have found over time is
21 that they are contradicting and sloppy
22 with their data. Invenergy has
23 provided inaccurate information,
24 misleading the public, and OPSB. The
25 OPSB staff requested them to list the

1 distance of panels from all adjoining
2 property lines. My review has found
3 many errors and contradicting data by
4 Invenergy based on their second
5 application listed parcels distances,
6 adjoining parcels, and the response to
7 the staff's data request regarding land
8 use.

9 Invenergy states the panel
10 distances range from zero to 1,446
11 feet. However, in the second
12 application the closest parcel begins
13 at 247 and will be away from the
14 panels. This data is fairly
15 contradicting. That response means
16 there are 69 parcels listed closer than
17 that 247 feet.

18 In the original application about
19 the 5 parcels that are not listed, 4
20 with wrong parcel numbers, and in the
21 response to the ninth data request I
22 discovered that they left off the
23 adjoining parcel that is located very
24 close to the panels, which you heard
25 from her today, and listed another

1 parcel that is not even adjoining the
2 project at all that is listed.

3 Invenergy could not even spell
4 leaseholders' names correctly. There
5 are 5 parcels duplicated in their
6 response as well.

7 As far as lease holders in the
8 project, they list not one -- they list
9 one that is not participating that is
10 clearly on the map and another lease
11 holder as participating that according
12 to the statement from that person they
13 are not.

14 In addition, there are 16 leased
15 parcels not listed that should be. 4
16 of the lease holders never even
17 mentioned in the response. One of
18 those lease holders that was never
19 mentioned holds the majority of the
20 leases.

21 I understand people make clerical
22 errors, but in my opinion this is
23 beyond clerical. It is negligent and
24 lacks transparency by Invenergy. To
25 me, these are critical mistakes. This

1 leads me to assume that there are many
2 more false findings in their documents,
3 even the data in the original
4 application regarding parcels and noise
5 documents, even if the depth of the
6 original application -- I'm sorry --
7 did not match up, in my opinion they
8 made it undiscoverable by using brand
9 numbering when referring to the same
10 parcels. Why not use parcel numbers in
11 the beginning? Why do I ask myself?
12 Is Invenergy trying to make it so hard
13 and confusing to keep track of parcel
14 distances and property owners so --

15 MS. SEE: You are out of time.

16 MS. HAMMER: -- lack of
17 transparency.

18 I ask you to deny the Fountain
19 Point Project.

20 MS. SEE: Any cross?

21 Paul Schaller?

22 Mr. Culp, raise your right hand.

23 JIM CULP

24 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
25 tell the truth, testified as follows:

1 MS. SEE: State and spell your
2 name for the record and also state your
3 address.

4 MR. CULP: Jim, J-I-M, Culp,
5 C-U-L-P. My address is 11388 State
6 Route 47, West Mansfield, Ohio.

7 MS. SEE: You are a party in this
8 case?

9 MR. CULP: Yes, ma'am.

10 MS. SEE: Do you work or reside in
11 the project area?

12 MR. CULP: Reside.

13 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
14 testimony.

15 MR. CULP: Good evening. My wife
16 and I are lifelong residents of Logan
17 County and most of our family still
18 reside in the area.

19 Twenty years ago we bought a few
20 acres and built a house in the country
21 outside of West Mansfield. We love the
22 peacefulness and beauty there.

23 Earlier this year we learned that
24 our residence is directly across the
25 road from a proposed solar project, the

1 Fountain Point Large Scale Solar
2 Facility. This means that the beautiful
3 countryside landscape would be turned
4 into an ugly industrial site. We do
5 not relish the thought of staring at
6 solar panels for the rest of our lives.
7 Besides the thought of losing the
8 beauty of the countryside, we have many
9 other concerns with this project such
10 as solar is terribly inefficient,
11 especially with the Ohio climate;
12 sketchy plan for decommissioning, too
13 many unknowns; loss of our property
14 values; flooding and drainage issues
15 due to field tile being cut during
16 installation; the impact on offsite
17 water resources, perennial and
18 ephemeral streams, and other drainage
19 structures; disruption of animal
20 migration and the habitats of bald
21 eagles, deer, coyote, bats, et cetera;
22 degradation and loss of fertile
23 agricultural land currently producing
24 crops; noise from inverters; toxic
25 runoff from damaged photocells; heat

1 islands killing birds and other
2 wildlife; increased electric bills and
3 not a single watt from this facility
4 will go to local residents; damage to
5 homes from loose panels in high winds;
6 community unrest; fire safety is a very
7 big concern; possible short-term and
8 long-term health concerns, a total
9 unknown; hundreds of thousands of solar
10 panels that are made in China; loss of
11 local agricultural business when acres
12 of prime farmland go out of production.

13 We are not opposed to developing
14 and using renewable energy. However,
15 we feel that it should not be
16 constructed in and among residential
17 areas affecting many property owners.
18 A few property owners will benefit
19 financially if this project moves
20 forward while many others that are
21 adjacent to and within the boundaries,
22 including the Village of West
23 Mansfield, will, in our opinion, be the
24 losers.

25 Even Logan County Electric Co-Op,

1 our current electric supplier, is very
2 skeptical about the benefits of
3 producing power from solar energy at
4 this time.

5 We feel, as do most residents and
6 property owners, the Fountain Point
7 Project would not have been approved
8 had it not been grandfathered after the
9 passage of Senate Bill 52 in 2021.

10 Earlier this year the Logan County
11 Commissioners and 16 of the 17
12 townships within the county declared
13 Logan County a restricted zone for
14 utility scale wind and solar projects.

15 The residents should have had the
16 opportunity to vote on aproving a
17 project of this magnitude before
18 anything moved forward. This should
19 have been the first steop for the
20 Fountain Point Solar Facility.

21 All you need to do is to drive
22 north into Hardin County to see the
23 ugly results of these projects.

24 To the east in Union County
25 construction has begun on a solar

1 project with modulars, construction
2 noise, lights on all night, and workers
3 brought in from who knows where to live
4 in their community.

5 Many homes withink the footpring
6 are up for sale. Our communities are
7 being torn apart.

8 You must deny these projects. It
9 is so unfair to ruin the lifestyle of
10 hundreds to benefit only a few.

11 We all know solar is an expensive
12 and inefficient source of energy only
13 made viable throught government
14 subsidies. You can stip this madness.

15 We feel that Fountain Point is not
16 consistent with the Logan County
17 Regional Plan which is a requirement of
18 the OPSB in order to approve a solar
19 project. According to the Logan County
20 Regional Planning Commission, their
21 goal is to improve the quality of life
22 for its residents and to make it an
23 attractive place to live and work.

24 The plan is to be used as a means
25 to guide local policy and development

1 while at the same time protecting the
2 physical environment and managing
3 growth. The county wishes to ensure
4 that its residents maintain what is most
5 valuable to them, their rural
6 environment.

7 MS. SEE: You have 30 seconds.

8 MR. CULP: This project clearly
9 does not do this.

10 A multitude of our elected
11 officials, including the Logan County
12 Commissioners, most of the Township
13 Trustees within Logan County, State
14 Senators McColley and Huffman, and
15 Representative Vitale, as well as
16 numerous residents and landowners
17 within Bokescreek and Rushcreek
18 Townships and throughout Logan County
19 have written letters of opposition
20 requesting that you deny the Fountain
21 Point Solar Project. They are all
22 documented within the public comments
23 records --

24 MS. SEE: You are out of time.

25 MR. CULP: Please deny the

1 project.

2 MS. SEE: Cross?

3 MS. PIRIK: I didn't want to
4 interrupt the witness but I do have a
5 question and a possible motion to
6 strike with regard to the reference to
7 Logan County Electric Cooperative and
8 their position with regard to the
9 project.

10 I think that's hearsay and
11 inappropriate for this witness to
12 testify.

13 MR. CULP: That was --

14 MS. SEE: Just a moment.

15 Did you have cross?

16 MS. PARCELS: No.

17 MS. SEE: All right. I recognize
18 that it is inappropriate and the board
19 will take that comment into
20 consideration.

21 MR. CULP: Thank you.

22 MS. SEE: Thank you.

23 Mr. Schaller?

24 Kara Slonecker?

25 Mr. Schaller, please raise your

1 right hand.

2 PAUL SCHALLER

3 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
4 tell the truth, testified as follows:

5 MS. SEE: State and spell your
6 name for the record and state your
7 address.

8 MR. SCHALLER: Paul Schaller,
9 P-A-U-L, S-C-H-A-L-L-E-R, 11453 State
10 Route 47, West Mansfield, Ohio.

11 MS. SEE: You have acknowledged
12 you are intervener in this case?

13 MR. SCHALLER: You betcha.

14 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in
15 the project area?

16 MR. SCHALLER: I think engulfed
17 would be the better terminology.

18 MS. SEE: I'm sorry?

19 MR. SCHALLER: Engulfed would be
20 the better terminology.

21 MS. SEE: Do you recognize that
22 interveners' opportunity to offer
23 testimony is at the evidentiary hearing
24 to be held in January?

25 MR. SCHALLER: I plan on doing

1 that.

2 MS. SEE: Nonetheless, you're
3 planning to give testimony here today?

4 MR. SCHALLER: Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. SEE: All right. Go ahead
6 with your testimony, Mr. Schaller.

7 MR. SCHALLER: I am a resident of
8 Bokescreek Township and my little
9 2-acre property is subject to being
10 surrounded on three sides by the
11 Fountain Point Solar Project. I am not
12 originally from this area. I moved
13 here 15 years ago to get away from the
14 urban sprawl of the city.

15 I wanted to live in the country
16 with beautiful views and wildlife. Now
17 I may have to look at a sea of solar
18 panels for what will effectively be the
19 rest of my life.

20 I wanted to speak to you today
21 specifically about the OPSB staff report
22 regarding the Fountain Point Project
23 that was released on November 29th.
24 The OPSB bases their assessment on
25 whether to grant an operating permit to

1 a solar facility on eight separate
2 criteria.

3 Item Number 6 states: Does the
4 facility serve the public interest,
5 convenience, and necessity? Further,
6 the staff report states on page 43:
7 Some local opposition is common and
8 unless it has been especially
9 prominent, one-sided, and compelling,
10 staff will recommend the project be
11 approved.

12 Well, the staff recommended that
13 the project be approved. It is my
14 opinion that the staff is either inept
15 and derelict in their duties, their
16 reason to approve is politically
17 motivated, or they have otherwise been
18 persuaded or manipulated.

19 Here are some facts to back up
20 that assessment. In additionf to this
21 testimony, two maps will be provided,
22 one that has pins dropped on addresses
23 that have submitted a pro-solar comment
24 or a pro-solar petition signature, and
25 one that contains opposition addresses.

1 They both depict their proxijmity to
2 the Fountain Point footprint.

3 The staff report states that there
4 were 369 public comments made. That is
5 true, but what was not stated was three
6 of those comments contained 737
7 individual signed letters of opposition
8 trhat were personally hand delivered to
9 the OPSB and should be considered as
10 such.

11 So, taking that into account let's
12 crunch some numbers. 1,066 total
13 public comments. 47 comments were in
14 support of Fountain Point or solar in
15 general, 1 letter in support that the
16 OPSB specifically addressed was from
17 Bokescreek Trustee Larry Mouser who is
18 voicing his opinion against his
19 constituents' desires who have voiced
20 their opposition to the project at
21 multiple township meetings and in a
22 petition circulated around Bokescreek.

23 Just to clarify, the other two
24 trustees in Bokescreek were legally
25 bound not to comment because they are

1 lease holders in the project, something
2 they failed to disclose to their
3 constituents. One comment was from the
4 superintendent of Benjamin Logan
5 Schools and indicated that all five
6 members of the board would like to
7 express their support for the project.

8 At the most recent school board
9 meeting on November 28th board members
10 discussed the five-year budget being in
11 the black, which is almost unheard of
12 for a school district to be in the
13 black that far in the future.

14 The board did not discuss crafting
15 this letter at that meeting. Is this
16 nothing more than greed from the
17 superintendent? Did the school board
18 ask for an opinion on the project from
19 the staff or the citizens whose
20 children attend the school before
21 submitting this letter?

22 1,019 comments opposed. 96
23 percent of the comments were in
24 opposition. Four petitions submitted.
25 219 signatures in favor of Fountain

1 Point, 96 percent of those signatures 3
2 miles or more from the project
3 footprint, 79 percent outside of the
4 Benjamin Logan School District, 829
5 signatures opposed Fountain Point. 278
6 percent more people signed an
7 opposition petition.

8 Two state senators and one state
9 representative sent in letters of
10 opposition. 14 out of 17 townships
11 sent letters of opposition. Two
12 commissioners sent in personal letters
13 opposing Fountain Point.

14 By the way, OPSB states that two
15 Logan County Commissioners originally
16 sent in letter in support and then
17 later emended their support, quote,
18 "evidencing a robust debate and
19 consideration in the community." While
20 this is partially correct, two
21 commissioners did submit letters in
22 support of solar development in general
23 prior to the public meeting Invenergy
24 held to announce Fountain Point.

25 What is more compelling is that 13

1 days, yep, 13 days after the public
2 meeting, after the commissioners heard
3 a massive outcry from their
4 constituents, the same two
5 commissioners filed letters of
6 opposition --

7 MS. SEE: You have 30 seconds.

8 MR. SCHALLER: -- specifically to
9 the Fountain Point project.

10 The Logan County Commissioner's
11 office also intervened in opposition,
12 sent in a resolution formally opposing,
13 and declared the entire county, save
14 one township, restricted from solar
15 development. Rushcreek Township has
16 also intervened in opposition.

17 If this project was not partially
18 grandfathered under Senate Bill 52 we
19 would not even be here tonight. This
20 project would be dead on arrival.
21 Someone at the OPSB needs to explain to
22 me how given the facts stated --

23 MS. SEE: You are out of time.

24 Any cross?

25 Thank you.

1 Ms. Slonecker?

2 Cliff Cronkelton?

3 Ms. Slonecker, please raise your
4 right hand.

5 KARA SLONECKER

6 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
7 tell the truth, testified as follows:

8 MS. SEE: State and spell your
9 name for the record and also state your
10 address.

11 MS. SLONECKER: Kara Slonecker.
12 K-A-R-A, S-L-O-N-E-C-K-E-R, 922
13 Township Road 132, West Mansfield.

14 MS. SEE: You have represented
15 that you are a party to the case?

16 MS. SLONECKER: Yes.

17 MS. SEE: Do you understand that
18 your opportunity to offer testimony
19 would come otherwise at the evidentiary
20 hearing?

21 MS. SLONECKER: Yes.

22 MS. SEE: But you choose to give
23 testimony here tonight?

24 MS. SLONECKER: Yes.

25 MS. SEE: Do you live or work in

1 the project area?

2 MS. SLONECKER: I do work in the
3 project area, yes.

4 MS. SEE: Okay. Go ahead with
5 your testimony.

6 MS. SLONECKER: Good evening.
7 It's been a long night and I appreciate
8 your patience and willingness to listen
9 to my testimony.

10 I represent both Citizens Against
11 Fountain Point and No Solar in Logan
12 County. I would like to summarize the
13 success we have had to date. No Solar
14 in Logan County was created in January
15 of this year. Since the conception, we
16 have grown exponentially.

17 A quick count tonight shows
18 approximately 180 people showed up
19 tonight. We're thankful for Senate
20 Bill 52 which allows those of us most
21 impacted by Fountain Point to raise our
22 concerns.

23 A summary of the public opposition
24 begins with Ohio Senator Matt Huffman
25 representing the 12th district in Ohio;

1 Senator representing the 1st district
2 sent a joint letter of opposition. Not
3 only do both of our senators oppose
4 this project but they recognize that,
5 quote: "Both the opposition from the
6 local officials and the concerns raised
7 by residents it is clear that Fountain
8 Point Solar is not supported by any of
9 those who would be most impacted by the
10 project," end quote.

11 Ohio representative Nino Vitale
12 who represents District 85 in Logan
13 County sent in his opposition letter.
14 He received numerous phone calls and
15 email from citizens he represents who
16 are against Fountain Point. He also
17 mentioned that he has received almost
18 no emails for these types of projects.

19 Another point to Fountain Point is
20 his concern of using up some of the
21 most fertile farmland in the State of
22 Ohio. Commissioners Beneditti and
23 Antram jumped the gun and submitted
24 their support letter dated November 30,
25 2021 before Invenenergy had an

1 opportunity to to notify the public of
2 their vague plans to construct Fountain
3 Point's industrial solar project in our
4 backyards. It did not take long them
5 for them to realize that was a huge
6 mistake.

7 After receiving an outpouring of
8 emails and phone calls from residents
9 directly impacted by Invenergy's
10 Fountain Point Project, I am happy to
11 say that 31 working days later they
12 both rescinded their support in
13 writing.

14 On August 9th was the
15 commissioner's public meeting regarding
16 a possible resolution to restrict the
17 county of large-scale solar projects.
18 Out of 46 speakers, 39 spoke to
19 supporting resolution.

20 On August 11th the Logan County
21 commissioners once again listened to
22 their constituents and passed a
23 resolution restricting 16 of their 17
24 townships against large-scale wind and
25 solar projects.

1 A resolution dated November 3rd
2 opposing Fountain Point was passed, and
3 on top of that, the commissioners are
4 also set to intervene in the case.

5 As of Logan County's 51 township
6 trustees, 34 have signed opposition
7 letters and out of 17 townships 14 have
8 passed resolutions opposing this
9 project. 13 have signed a letter of
10 opposition and 1 has entered the case
11 as an intervener.

12 Not only are there 1,023
13 individual opposition letters on file
14 with the OPSB, the OPSB has also
15 received opposition letters from two
16 very distinguished groups: The North
17 American Platform Against Wind Power
18 and Landowners International Union of
19 North America.

20 We have painstakingly knocked on
21 hundrs of doors and acquired 833
22 signatures as of today.

23 According to StatisticalAtlas.com
24 the total population of West Mansfield,
25 Rushsylvania, East Liberty, is 1,567,

1 so we have approximately 53 perent
2 represented of three of our petitions
3 alone.

4 I would like to bring to your
5 attention the the Board of Township
6 Trustees of Bokescreek is conflicted
7 and unable to act on behalf of their
8 constituents. 2 out of 3 trustees are
9 lease owners in profit and the third
10 trustee has sided with Invenergy.

11 Therefore, the residents of
12 Bokescreek Township signed a letter to
13 be considered a representation in lieu
14 of their intervention by the Board of
15 Trustees of Bokescreek Township. This
16 letter has 119 signatures of residents
17 and land owners within the footprint of
18 Fountain Point Solar.

19 We have 330 members and growing in
20 our private No Solar Logan County
21 Facebook group along with 125 members
22 and growing in our public No Solar
23 Farms in Logan County Facebook group.
24 That's a total of 455 homeowners. Do
25 you know how many numbers on this solar

1 supporters of Logan County Facebook
2 group is? A whopping 27.

3 While only half of the majority of
4 Logan County's elected officials oppose
5 Fountain Point, I think it's safe to
6 say that with well over a thousand
7 individual opposition letters to the
8 OSPB that the majority of Logan County
9 is also opposed to this project.

10 There is clearly uniform
11 opposition to Fountain Point Solar.

12 For fun, let's compare some
13 numbers. There are 833 Logan County
14 residents that have signed a petition
15 compared to 219 that signed a pro-solar
16 petition.

17 We have 455 homeowners on Facebook
18 compared to 22 followers --

19 MS. SEE: You have 30 seconds.

20 MS. SLONECKER: -- on pro-solar
21 Facebook page as of December 14th.
22 There have been 1,019 individual
23 opposition letters filed by residents
24 of Logan County compared to 46
25 pro-solar letters.

1 For more fun, here are a few
2 stellar examples of the pro-solar
3 comments. Shawna Newburg wrote two
4 whole sentences to say: I support
5 solar panels of Logan County. This is
6 the way the world is going so we might
7 as well get on board.

8 Not to be outdone, Shawn Perkin
9 wrote one sentence: I support solar
10 panels of Logan County. An anonymous
11 person wrote in to the OSPB that I feel
12 it's a great idea for Logan County.

13 MS. SEE: Your time is up.

14 MS. SLONECKER: 26 comments from
15 the pro-solar --

16 MS. SEE: You are out of time.

17 Mr. Cronkleton?

18 MR. CRONKLETON: I'm not sure I
19 can get up.

20 MS. SEE: Raise your right hand.

21 CLIFF CRONKLETON

22 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
23 tell the truth, testified as follows:

24 MS. SEE: State your name and
25 spell it for the record and state your

1 address.

2 MR. CRONKELTON: Cliff Cronkleton,
3 C-L-I-F-F, C-R-O-N-K-L-E-T-O-N.

4 MS. SEE: And you represented that
5 you are a party to the case?

6 MR. CRONKELTON: Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. SEE: State your address
8 please.

9 MR. CRONKELTON: 4764 State Road
10 47 East, Bellefontaine, Ohio.

11 MS. SEE: Do you work or reside in
12 the project area?

13 MR. CRONKELTON: Reside.

14 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
15 testimony.

16 MR. CRONKELTON: Before I start, I
17 would like to -- this is part of it --
18 just to put that I'm opposed to the
19 visual aids that were used.

20 MS. SEE: Okay.

21 MR. CRONKELTON: As I was sitting
22 in my kitchen today at the table
23 thinking back on all the adversities
24 that we had growing up on the farm that
25 we endured through the years that

1 ranged from personal tragedies on the
2 farm to the inclimate weather and the
3 fact that crop production and decisions
4 that affect crop prices around the
5 world, politicians that have no clue
6 what it takes to produce grain and feed
7 our country and others around the
8 world.

9 We also have to endure the winds
10 from one political party to another and
11 their ideas and climate change and
12 energy production throughout our great
13 nation.

14 Many times decisions are made
15 without much consideration on the
16 effect that it will have on our
17 lifestyles and the production of
18 practices on the farms.

19 One adverse we are facing this
20 time is the Fountain Point Solar
21 Project. The major points against this
22 project are concerning and justified.

23 The decision is being asked of us
24 in our community to sacrifice our way
25 of life to benefit a few who don't hold

1 our heritage that we have with great
2 steam.

3 We are being asked to allow power
4 lines to be buried across the fields to
5 accommodate the lines that most
6 certainly affect existing drain, tile,
7 pro-production fields nearby. The land
8 for solar panels will be forever
9 changed not only in the productivity
10 but also obnoxious weeds that are
11 uncontrolled by poor practices.

12 This is evident in a property just
13 northeast of west Mansfield. I drove
14 by there earlier this year and the
15 weeds were as high as an elephant's
16 eye, if you get that one, and not taken
17 care of and the place looked like a
18 bomb dropped on it.

19 So, when you look at what it's
20 doing to our countryside during and
21 after is very troublesome.

22 This will not be an economic boom
23 for the areas surrounding the project.
24 All electricity produced is going to
25 the east coast or out of our area into

1 another facility. It's going to
2 brought in from areas which is evident
3 at the moment that I saw and with Ohio,
4 that's been beat to death here,
5 gloomiest state. We know every day,
6 when you walk out there tonight you're
7 going to see it -- you're not going to
8 see it.

9 Why is it even considered? If it
10 wasn't for the government money thrown
11 at this project and other projects like
12 it, there wouldn't be a business that
13 they were going to. The company is all
14 about the money.

15 I have here -- you will see it --
16 this was a paper that was sent to a
17 land owner that had turned down putting
18 their property in it and it said, I
19 quote: Since the passage of the
20 inflation reduction --

21 MS. PIRIK: Objection.

22 MS. SEE: Hold on. There's an
23 objection.

24 MS. PIRIK: Yes, I object. If
25 this was a letter that was specifically

1 sent to this gentleman, okay, but I got
2 the impression it was a letter sent to
3 someone else that he's trying to
4 authenticate in the record and I just
5 think that's --

6 MR. CRONKELTON: No.

7 Is my time up? You're killing me.

8 MS. PIRIK: I would ask whether
9 the letter was sent to him.

10 MR. CRONKELTON: It was not sent
11 to me.

12 MS. SEE: It was not sent to you?

13 MR. CRONKELTON: It was not sent
14 to me.

15 MS. SEE: Okay. It was not
16 addressed to you?

17 MR. CRONKELTON: No.

18 MS. PIRIK: Objection based on
19 hearsay.

20 MS. SEE: Do you have personal
21 knowledge of who it came from and the
22 situation that gave rise to the letter?

23 MR. CRONKELTON: Yes.

24 MS. SEE: Then you can only
25 testify as to what you know and not

1 what you were told or have heard. I
2 need you to testify only as to your own
3 personal knowledge.

4 MR. CRONKELTON: Okay. So I
5 cannot do this?

6 MS. SEE: Let me see the letter,
7 sir.

8 Let's move on.

9 MR. CRONKELTON: Let's move on.
10 Okay. All right. So I can't use this.

11 Anyway, it has been heard of that
12 they are offering more money for
13 solar -- the solar companies are
14 offering more money because of the
15 inflation reduction, and that proves
16 that the money from the government,
17 they're putting more money in because
18 they want this passed so badly, and it
19 falsely gives the idea that solar
20 panels are really a good investment,
21 which shows it's not.

22 I mean, any other company that has
23 business can prove they're good -- if
24 the government keeps pumping millions
25 of dollars in and saying look at my

1 profitability --

2 She's going to cut me off here.

3 Anyway, I have to say that the
4 solar plants too, I listened to a blog
5 today and they said that they are so
6 grossly mismanaged for 20 years and
7 they're corrosive and they will not be
8 worth anything at the end of time and
9 the money that has been put aside to
10 tear them down won't even come close to
11 taking care of them.

12 A lot of these companies will
13 probably file bankruptcy at the end
14 because they will be obsolete and they
15 can walk away and we have just a sea of
16 countless junk city 15-feet down in the
17 ground, can't use our properties again,
18 or the properties beside it, and we all
19 have to look at this horrible, horrible
20 looking place.

21 I guess the solar panels leach
22 lead and cadmium. It's not really
23 green energy if all of this corrosion,
24 all of this crap, comes with it and
25 destroys our soil, our water, and

1 everything else.

2 So, as a fourth generation farm
3 boy with my sons, fifth generation and
4 their children is the sixth generation,
5 I'm concerned about the future of our
6 family farm.

7 I urge them not to allow this
8 project to go on because our goal is to
9 save our farm and it's been in the
10 family for years.

11 MS. SEE: Your time is up.

12 There is cross.

13 MS. PIRIK: Mr. Cronkleton, you
14 indicated your opposition. You are an
15 adjacent land owner, is that correct?

16 MR. CRONKELTON: Yes.

17 MS. PIRIK: You are concerned for
18 the farm and you mentioned your family.
19 What is your relationship to Cronkelton
20 if there is a use as important?

21 MR. CRONKELTON: That, we are at a
22 very distant -- no. No. No. No.
23 That would be improper here. Called
24 disinheritance.

25 MS. SEE: Thank you.

1 MR. CRONKELTON: Thank you.
2 Appreciate it.

3 MS. MARCELLETTI: That concludes
4 the witnesses who signed up to testify.

5 Is there anyone else present this
6 evening that would like to testify?
7 Seeing none, thank you.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would
9 like to say something.

10 MS. SEE: You have not previously
11 offered testimony?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

13 MS. SEE: Are you a party?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I am not a
15 party.

16 MS. SEE: We're going to limit
17 this to this one witness and then wrap
18 things up. Sir, please raise your
19 right hand.

20 SHALEM LORITSCH

21 After having been first duly sworn or affirmed to
22 tell the truth, testified as follows:

23 MS. SEE: Come closer to the mic.
24 and state and spell your name for the
25 record.

1 MR. LORITSCH: Shalem Loritsch,
2 S-H-A-L-E-M, L-O-R-I-T-S-C-H.

3 MS. SEE: I'm sorry. State and
4 spell your name for me one more time.

5 MR. LORITSCH: Shalem Loritsch,
6 S-H-A-L-E-M, L-O-R-I-T-S-C-H.

7 MS. SEE: Okay. State your
8 address.

9 MR. LORITSCH: 1710 State Route
10 292, Zanesfield, Ohio.

11 MS. SEE: Are you a party in this
12 case?

13 MR. LORITSCH: No.

14 MS. SEE: Do you work or reside in
15 the project area?

16 MR. LORITSCH: I live within 4
17 miles of the nearest project.

18 MS. SEE: Go ahead with your
19 testimony.

20 MR. LORITSCH: Would you like to
21 have this?

22 MS. SEE: Let me see what you
23 have. Is this for you or do you intend
24 to have --

25 MR. LORITSCH: It's for you.

1 MS. SEE: This is a reference.
2 Can you provide a copy to counsel for
3 the applicant?

4 Okay. Go ahead, sir.

5 MR. LORITSCH: I am here to voice
6 my opposition to the proposed Fountain
7 Point Solar project for too many
8 reasons to adequately explain in 5
9 minutes so I will try to summarize very
10 briefly here. Apologies in advance if
11 I read fast. EVs stand to double our
12 average residential electric
13 consumption in the coming years.

14 At home EVs are often charged in
15 the evening or at night. Solar farms
16 generate little power in the evening
17 and no power at night so many of these
18 green vehicles will still be
19 fossil-fuel powered no matter how many
20 solar farms we install.

21 Solar and wind both work on a
22 concept called offsetting energy usage.
23 Rather than providing for the needs of
24 the grid they produce lots of power
25 when resources are available, pushing

1 conventional plants to throttle back,
2 and when resources are scarce they stop
3 helping, forcing conventional plants to
4 spool back-up.

5 In particular, solar creates a
6 daily pulse on the grid, often referred
7 to as the Solar Duck Curve, Google it
8 for more information.

9 As more solar capacity is added,
10 it not only causes regulation issues
11 for the grid but starts cutting into
12 the profits for conventional power
13 generation plants, disincentivizing
14 further plants from being built. This
15 will raise the cost of electricity in
16 the long run, as renewable
17 fundamentally cannot support the grid
18 on their own and have to be fully
19 backed up by increasingly idle, but
20 always ready, generation capacity to
21 avoid blackouts.

22 Projects like this one are causing
23 us to lose a lot of farmland for what
24 they offer in return. This project has
25 a nameplate peak capacity of 280

1 megawatts.

2 Not so transparently advertised is
3 the mere 587,000 megawatt annual
4 estimated output. Find it on PDF page
5 22 of their application 1 of 23 filing.
6 With 8,760 hours in a year, 587,000
7 megawatts is a mere 23.9 percent of the
8 2,452,800 megawatts that could be
9 outputted by a conventional 280
10 megawatt plant in a year.

11 So for the purposes of fair
12 comparison, we must consider this
13 project equivalent to a 67 megawatt
14 regular plant, 23.9 percent of 280
15 megawatts, given solar day/night and
16 cloudy weather in Ohio, and this is
17 based on the 3,400 acre figure in their
18 application because they did not submit
19 an updated megawatt figure for the
20 smaller footprint.

21 I evaluated three other recently
22 permitted natural gas plants in Ohio:
23 Clean Energy Future Oregon, Guernsey
24 Power Station, and Harrison Power, LLC.
25 Averaged together, those three plants

1 come out to 18.9 megawatts an acre, but
2 at 67 megawatts and 3,400 acres, this
3 project comes out to 0.02 megawatts an
4 acre equivalent. In other words, this
5 project has 0.1 percent of the land-use
6 efficiency of a natural gas power plant
7 using one thousand times as much land
8 to produce the same amount of power.

9 Every acre taken away from farming
10 increases the cost of food. A few
11 years ago I remember paying 69 cents
12 for a dozen eggs. They are over \$3.00
13 a dozen now.

14 Exactly one month ago we reached 8
15 billion humans living on this planet.
16 We need housing. We need roads. We
17 need the landfill. We need schools.
18 But we do not need solar farms. It
19 doesn't seem wise to gobble up valuable
20 farmland at one thousand times the
21 regular rate just to make a tiny bit of
22 electricity when we have substantially
23 more efficient ways of doing so.

24 According to MORPC and Google,
25 Franklin County alone consumes 15.24

1 million megawatts a year. It would
2 take 26 Fountain Point Solar projects
3 occupying one third of the land in
4 Logan County to offset just Franklin
5 County's electric usage. They say to
6 start small, but what are we scaling up
7 to? This is an unsustainable mode.

8 These companies like to say things
9 like: Our project is only 0.1 percent
10 of Logan County, belittling the impact
11 on a local area. We have two projects
12 already in construction, this one
13 seeking approval and another having
14 already put out some public
15 information. I laid them out on Google
16 Earth and drew a box around the
17 combined local area, 51,150 acres
18 encompassing these four projects.

19 The projects themselves consume
20 approximately 13,000 acres, over 25
21 percent of all the land within that
22 square. My property is just outside of
23 this square, but many of the people --

24 MS. SEE: You have 30 seconds.

25 MR. LORITSCH: -- here voicing

1 opposition live inside of this local
2 area occupied by two, and potentially
3 four, solar farms.

4 Immediately to the west of this
5 square lies the largest wildlife are
6 and habitat in Central Ohio. I invite
7 everyone to open Google Maps, switch to
8 satellite view, and start zooming out.
9 Put the blue dot for Ben Logan in the
10 middle, Sidney on the left, Delaware on
11 the right, and Findlay at the top.
12 Surrounding the blue dot, you'll see
13 the single largest darkest patch of
14 green on your screen. This area is the
15 home to the greatest density of
16 wildlife I have seen anywhere in the
17 state of Ohio, bordered by
18 Bellefontaine on the west, Rushsylvania
19 on the north, Ohio 292 on the east --

20 MS. SEE: You are out of time.

21 The court reporter has requested
22 if you have written out your testimony,
23 if she could get a copy of that
24 testimony for reference. It will not
25 not become a part of the record. It is

1 so she can make sure what she has is
2 accurate. Just step forward and set it
3 on the table in front of the court
4 reporter. I appreciate that.

5 MS. MARCELLETTI: We would like to
6 thank everyone who participated tonight
7 and Benjamin Logan High School and we
8 would also like to thank our ad-hoc
9 members, Trustee Spencer and Mr. Yoder,
10 for attending this.

11 The hearing is now concluded. The
12 hearing transcript will be submitted on
13 the record for the board's
14 consideration in this case.

15 Thank you all again.

16 - - - - -

17 (Hearing concluded at 11:07 p.m.)

18 - - - - -
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CERTIFICATE

I, Lorraine A. Litvin, certify that the foregoing public hearing is a true and accurate transcript of said public hearing taken at said place, date, and time as aforementioned.

I do further certify that I am not a relative, employee of, or attorney for any of the parties in the above-captioned action; I am not a relative or employee of an attorney for any of the parties in the above-captioned action; I am not financially interested in the action; I am not, nor is the court reporting firm with which I am affiliated, under a contract as defined in Civil Rule 28(D); nor am I otherwise interested in the event of this action.



Lorraine A. Litvin, Notary Public
in and for the State of Ohio.
My commission expires August 24, 2026.

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