

 **FILE**

From: Puco Contact OPSB  
To: PUCO-Docketing  
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Hello,

I am a local nurse that has been informed about the planned solar project for my township, Washington township of Hancock County. I am gravely concerned about the potential impact to the health of the community by this project. Also, I am worried about the effects it will have on our local drinking water, the local agricultural industry and the wildlife. I am in opposition to this proposal.

According to the National Institutes of Health website, an article published on 9/15/2019 by M. Jafari, R. Khosrowabadi, and F. Mohammadian about the effects of noise exposure on cognitive performance showed that the attention span and abilities of individuals subjected to constant noise were significantly reduced. It also showed brain wave readings to change from prolonged exposure. I have been told this project will be creating constant noise 24/7 for 2 years until everything is built. I am not okay with this. I am worried about the elderly, the young growing children, and anyone else living in close proximity to the areas slated for building these monstrosities.

The silicon used to make the photovoltaic cells in the panels is associated with different metals that can be poisonous to the public if exposed to at high enough levels like lead or cadmium per the US Environmental Protection Agency's website. What are the panels proposed for my township made of? What is going to happen to the panels after they outlive their 25-30 years of productivity? Is the farmland salvageable after the panels are no longer good? What will happen to the reservoirs' water around these panels? Will the water runoff endanger the local residents? We already have concerns about our water supply due to the local landfill and this will just compound the issue.

These areas of solar panels are to be surrounded by high fencing which will disrupt the local wildlife's ecosystem. The deer won't be able to cross over the lands they have used for years and I suspect there will be more car accidents involving them. Other animals, like migrating birds, will also be affected. There is footage online of birds flying over panels in California and burning their feathers off rendering them flightless since 2014. Northwest Ohio is considered the warbler capital of the world and draws in millions of dollars to the economy each May as the birds migrate from South America to Canada. Those birds fly through

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the wooded brush areas by the fields on their way to Lake Erie. Their numbers decrease every year and I would hate to think some may die due to loss of habitat or solar feather burning. Also, there are several Bald Eagles in this area that will be affected too.

These are just some of my concerns. I am an active member of this community who is concerned by all of the potential unknowns from this project and feel the negative impact on our health is not worth someone lining their pockets with money at the expense of others.

Thank you for listening and supporting a local constituent.

Elissa Young Rumschlag, RN, BSN, OCN  
Washington Township