

 **FILE**

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PUCO

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Dear Power Siting Board,

I have been traveling down a long and winding road for a year and seven months. It's been bumpy, but not destroyed or tore up like the roads will be if South Branch Solar is approved. Unfortunately it's a dead end road and you decide if I go left and approve the South Branch Solar project or right and deny the South Branch Solar. I hope you choose the right direction.

From the get go Leeward has done nothing to get support from our community. The only community involvement it had was the public open house which you the power Siting Board set as a rule for each project. The rest of the time they were busy swaying others 10- 12miles away. Holding secret parties and sponsoring events. So if South Branch is approved will Arcadia just be the scapegoat and never receive anything more than some money to the school. Will Findlay be the community benefiting from South Branch? They seem be the community that Leeward/South Branch is focused on. There is more to our village than just the school. We have a gas station, restaurant, grocery store, financial office, and even a tool and die shop. All of those businesses help make our village such a great little place to live. Outside of the village most people are farmers and agriculture is the bulk of our community. South Branch is being planned by one farmer who taught Ag education, who's next generation does not want to farm. Neighbors would have gladly helped farm or cash rented. The other two participants are absentee land owners. Land owners who are removed from our community life and don't care what this project is doing to our community.

As part of your decision you have several criteria this needs to meet. Well this is not a transmission line or gas pipeline. This community already knows about a pipeline. Second the nature of environment impact will be a major adversity to our community as approving this project will affect future generations of our community who want to continue agriculture in our community. I don't see how this facility represents minimal environmental impacts, considering available technology and the nature and economics or other pertinent considerations , as there are plenty of impacts to the local South Branch water shed, wildlife, and plenty of good alternative locations besides good productive farm land. In the matter of criteria number 5, this will affect the flying approach to the Fostoria airport called vor alpha that goes directly above the South Branch Solar project . The airport is less than 10 miles from the project site. So just a few minutes from the South Branch site by air. We also have a private air strip to the south by a few minutes in the air. I fail to see how this serves the public interest, convince, and necessity when this was secretly brought in and our local zoning was bypassed, the local community has said we don't want this. It's only convenient for the local land owner and the two absentee land owners who don't live here, not the rest of our community. Arcadia is not getting any of the energy produced from South Branch. It will all be sold on the PJM grid to whoever buys it. I have read reports that the PJM grid is backlogged and unable to currently take new projects into operation. In criteria seven this does fall in a A1 agriculture zone and our community will be adversely impacted by South Branch Solar. For criteria 8 , I remember hearing something like 20,000 gallons of water a day roughly would be used to clean the panels off. That seems like a lot of water causing more flooding once titles are cut for this project. All these reasons

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meet your criteria to deny this project.

Arcadia is a small mostly agriculture community as I have said. Local Washington township zoning was created in the 60's to protect our agriculture heritage and keep agriculture continuing in our community. My husband's family has been apart of Washington township zoning for many many years. My husband currently is the zoning commission chairman. Washington township zoning wants everyone to follow the same rules and allowing South Branch Solar to construct is not making everyone follow the same rules. This is not a public utility that can go around zoning, if it was a public utility then Arcadia would get some of the energy being produced.

I hope you truly are reading our letters being sent in from the direct community the South Branch Solar project will impact. As many of us have mentioned, people have worked hard for there properties and spent hard earned money on them. They don't want all of that to be for nothing. We also don't need two mega utility scale solar projects within a little over a mile of each other. That is what will happen if you approve both the Border Basin Solar and the South Branch Solar. The Keller Bison farm has been a big part of this community. Providing a learning tool for our children on Bison. Many residents even enjoy just watching them. However the construction noise could affect them as well as stray voltage like what happened in Europe to cattle. I am surprised a veterinarian like Mr. Good who specializes in cattle reproduction would even think of participating his land for such a destructive project like this. So country, farming, and agriculture have been a big part of this community for many years. Please let our community buy more dirt(farm land) and country on just as we have been doing. Deny the South Branch Solar project. Please give us our lives back as this has divided our community apart from a few, for the almighty dollar. Please choose the RIGHT direction.

Rachelle Harmon