

FILE

PUCO Docketing Service  
Case # 21-1231-EL-BGN  
180 East Broad Street 11th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

PUCO

2023 APR 10 AM 11:10

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

RE: Opposition to Fountain Point Solar Project

Some people seem to be supportive of solar energy as long as it is not marring the fields of agricultural areas around them. What is often overlooked is that these fields have already been efficiently harvesting solar energy for productive societal and environmental benefit for hundreds of years. Each acre of farmland lost, especially prime farmland, reduces our society's future ability to produce food, fuel, and fiber, along with the erosion of the agrarian heritage of the community.

Yet the folly of unreliable, grid-connected solar continues to wipe out large swaths of farmland in Ohio, with arguably very little actual potential to be returned to full production. Governor Volnovich created the Ohio Farmland Protection Policy, a precursor to the current Ohio Farmland Preservation Office recognizing the need to preserve the resource base for our largest industry in the state, food and agriculture. Undoubtedly prompting the OPSB criteria. 44% of Ohio's farmland is defined as prime soils by the USDA. Obviously an extremely valuable resource. Yet through 2022, of the 92 solar projects either approved or under consideration by the OPSB, 87 of those, fully 95%, are located in areas defined as prime soils by the USDA.

The entire footprint of Fountain Point Solar is designated U-1 by the Comprehensive Plan for Logan County, defining the permitted uses as Agricultural and single-family dwellings. Obviously, this project is completely contradictory to the background and intent of your criteria regarding the "Impact on the continued agricultural viability of land in an existing agricultural district".

Combined with the overwhelming local opposition, you must conclude that this project does not satisfy the public interest, convenience, and necessity as required by your decision criteria.

I expect that this board will demonstrate integrity and deny Fountain Point Solar Project.

Name John Byrnes Date 3-13-23  
Address 4114 Co. Rd. 16-A Township PERRY Twp.  
cc: East Liberty OHIO 43219  
Board of Logan County Commissioners  
Benjamin Logan Board of Education

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