

FILE

April 18, 2023

Ohio Power Siting Board
Attn: Jenifer French, Chair
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

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PUCO

cc: Mike Williams, Executive Director
Scott Elisar, Legislative and Policy Director

RE: Fountain Point Solar Energy LLC Generation Facility, OPSB Case No. 21-1231-EL-BGN

Dear Chair French and Executive Director Williams,

I write today in support of the renewable energy development project in Logan County known as the Fountain Point Solar Energy LLC Project ("Fountain Point project").

As a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 52, I understand the desire of our local governments to govern the scope of projects that are located within their jurisdictions. When the General Assembly passed SB 52, there was also a clear desire to grandfather in late-stage projects that have followed the proper channels in their development. As described in the Staff Report, the Fountain Point project fits the bill to be grandfathered, other than having two ad-hoc members, and localized opposition to a grandfathered project may not be determinative. Despite being grandfathered, the Fountain Point project has labored to build local support for the project. The Board Staff recommends approval of this project, recommending the Board find that the public input received for the project represents varied interests, rather than a prominent, compelling, one-sided opposition, and not a consistent rejection of the project. Approximately 90% of the project is located in Bokescreek Township, where there is support from local officials.

It is my understanding that Invenergy, the company responsible for the development of the Fountain Point project, has been working with the community to ensure that the project will meaningfully benefit the surrounding region and the State of Ohio. It would provide supplemental income to farmers and protect the land from permanent development, allowing land to be returned to agricultural use after decommissioning. The facility would bring an estimated \$4.4 million in Logan County annually and would employ approximately 800 workers during peak construction.

Building on its proven record throughout the state as a leader in sustainable development and operation, Invenergy has worked to site the Fountain Point project responsibly, embracing its role as a community partner. The project goes above and beyond best practices for the industry, committing to 340 foot setbacks from residences and 150 foot from the edge of public roads. Consistent with the spirit of SB 52, the project filed an amendment last summer in response to local input. Those important updates included an 18% reduction in the size of the project, 45% reduction in nearby residences, a 37% reduction in tree clearing, and removing any acreage within Perry Township to further distance the project from any planned developments.

I believe that the Fountain Point project meets or exceeds the Ohio Power Siting Board criteria for approval and qualifies under the law to be grandfathered. Therefore, I would urge your approval of the project's certificate application.

Sincerely,

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Technician EC Date Processed 4/18/2023

William J. Seitz

**Majority Floor Leader
Ohio House of Representatives
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