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**Subject:** Oak Run Solar Project - Case NOS. 22-549-EL-BGN and 22-550EL-BTX

PUCO

5/10/23

C/O Ohio siting Board

Case NOS. 22-549-EL-BGN and 22-550EL-BTX

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For those in review of the application of approval for the Oak run solar Project, I'd like these concerns addressed and in your consideration.

Technician *TM* Date Processed **MAY 15 2023**

This week, a car passed the school bus during loading while it's stop signs were out. The bus driver honked and stopped my son just before he crossed the street nearly into incoming traffic at full speed. The driver didn't even hit the brakes. We're sure that it's one of the workers at the Madison Fields project as we see these vehicles every morning around bus stop time. Not long ago you would only see a handful of vehicles go up and down our road in the morning now you'll see many. These are concerns that my wife presented at the last public hearing and have quickly come to the forefront as unfortunately expected. We've been in contact with the Madison County sheriff, and the Savion project resolution contact personnel. This has already been an eye-opening experience, and the Oak Run project has not even been permitted yet.

There are many factors I'm greatly concerned with regards to the construction process and long-term ramifications of this project in Madison County, my local community, and my private residence and land. These include traffic, safety, road viability, water drainage, lay down locations, and access points for construction, and more.

I've have had several meetings with Savion and their respective representatives regarding our concerns. Each time they're vague in answering any questions regarding these concerns and have yet to get back to us with any proposed solutions to the items that we've discussed. They are however very responsive when it comes to the possibility of installing solar panels at our house. They offer these panels as a sort of "good gesture" for the adjacent neighbors to the project. This good gesture does not come without strings attached in the form of a "good neighbor agreement." This agreement basically ties your lips closed to public speaking about any problems or negative comments that you have regarding the construction of the project. It also requires that you offer your direct support for the project in a written form. Any real good neighbors that I know who would make a peace offering or an actual good gesture would not attach these sorts of prerequisites to it. The whole process of that is it misleading when you're trying to start a relationship with your neighbors.

Among other issues at the top of our list is safety regarding traffic flow and construction procedure.

Our driveway is hidden just past the bridge and below the hill so that either direction is blind from oncoming traffic. We have one new driver as well as another child that's about to start driving. This situation is inherently dangerous entering and exiting our driveway on a daily basis. We've already seen a significant increase in traffic headed up to the Madison Fields project. Each day we see many dump trucks, semis, work vehicles and cars of staff that work on that project. Rather than taking the state route 29 they decide to travel the side road of Rosedale Milford Center Rd which has dramatically increased our traffic, especially during the time where the school bus picks up children in the morning. We talked about this in detail in our last meeting with Savion, but I've not heard a peep back on how they plan to remedy the increased danger related to extra traffic generated. We recently called again and spoke to the projects resolution person to address the problems. He informed us that it's most likely going to get much worse as they've just started their hiring process. I can only imagine this will be much more than we're already seeing with the smaller project they're working on up our road. With this added traffic there's an inherent increase of a seriously dangerous accident and during the worst possible time of day. On the Madison Fields project website, it says that they'll try to limit traffic especially during school bus pickup times. But that's obviously not the case. Should we really have two of these projects, on the same road dramatically increasing the potential dangers?

Speaking of the road, it is not in any shape to take consistent traffic from a large construction project that will consume many years in steady traffic of all size vehicles. Just last year the county had to make several drainage repairs up and down our street and even closed the bridge to make some patchwork repairs and I believe the project would take a serious toll on that infrastructure. Very specifically noted to us during several conversations that the primary access points for the project would be off of state route 29 and there would be very little traffic on Rosedale Milford Center Rd. However, the new proposed layout map that was released shows several areas on Rosedale Milford Center that will be access points including lay down / staging area almost directly across the street from our driveway.

My family property is in a quite unique proximity related to the proposed project., It is directly across the street from the project boundary on Rosedale-Milford Center Rd. Due to the natural topography of the land where it's proposed all the drainage of the project is channeled directly into our front property and flows directly past our front door. This watershed is having been known previously as Wahoo Creek and it's a tributary of Spring Fork Creek, which is a direct feeder to Little Darby State and national protected waterway. Of course, there are many protected species and environmental concerns regarding the Darby Creek watershed. I'm sure many of those are already being considered by environmental groups so I do not plan on going in depth on all those issues and possible effects of the installation. I just want to note the proximity and the drainage comes from and goes to. Even though we are in a rather unique situation compared to other adjacent neighbors, Savion never contacted us directly until I expressed concern about these issues. I've seen many people out analyzing the area directly across the street from us where the drainage is. On the Oak Run project website, they posted pictures when Savion had a group of "experts" out discussing the wildlife, drainage and vegetation. We are not notified or included in those meeting or discussions even though it's directly across the street from our driveway and flows into our land.

I believe that if the project is allowed to proceed there needs to be a mandatory and much larger

then proposed buffer of prairie grass or other natural growth to prevent runoff from the gravel roads excess water in any construction sediment. In my experience silt and sediment fences don't work all that well nor or the adequately replaced when needed.

Another one of my great concerns is it possibility of windrift of continual dust, during construction phase and in the event that the battery storage systems or any equipment catching fire resulting in smoke and toxic fumes as they burn. We could get a nightmare situation like the one they are dealing with from the train derailment in East Palestine Ohio. Prevailing winds come from that direction and directly continue towards our house as well as the Monroe elementary school and the village of Plumwood.

The use of herbicides, chemicals etc they will have to use to keep all those limestone roadways clear from vegetation is also a concern. There are possibilities for that to run off or leach into the watershed and the below ground aquifer that is everyone's drinking supply. They also mentioned some sort of livestock in an experimental situation. What about the runoff affects from that? I don't think that using the largest solar farm established in Ohio, combined with putting it in such a delicate environmental location is the best idea for, non-proven, and experimental type projects. Any expert would advise that you should to test and prove a theory in a smaller scale before trying it at mega size.

I saw many Union labor Representatives at the siting board meeting, none of them were from our local area. They all just want money from the project like everybody else that's in favor of it. Anyone outside of the area has no direct negative correlation, they only want their piece of the financial pie. The workers obviously aren't concerned as they speed up and down our road endangering my family already. Savion doesn't seem concerned, or with a little redirection they could instruct them and all the trucks to stay on the state route instead. This is a direct foreshadowing of what I believe will happen for the Oak Run project too.

Our county commissioners have already voted their opinion against the larger solar project going in. Like many other people and scientific professionals who testified at the meeting, I'm sure we need to see the longer-term effects of the smaller and medium-sized projects before we do a mega sized one in our local community . I'm sure these concerns, and many other unforeseen problems will greatly affect our family, our neighbors, our local community, our elementary school, the Village of Plumwood, and our surrounding community. It's obvious that Savion strongly touts the financial benefit of the Oak Run project, but already does not address solutions for the current issues related to Madison Fields one that's in its early phases, just up the road. I see the problems will be ignored, and overlooked in order to get their project done in any manner that they see fit. Obviously, this will be on a much larger scale with the Oak Run proposed project. Hasn't Madison county already contributed enough to the solar powered push, with multiple projects already approved.

The projects proposal seems to be inherently and intentionally as open-ended and vague as possible to allow flexibility without any restraints on their part. I expect the Ohio Power siting board to seriously consider these issues, and if the project is allowed to move forward anyway, set extremely strict compliance regulations and harsh consequences for any non-compliance. It's easily justified for the safety of our kids, community, and environment.

Sincerely,  
Gary Teach