

**From:** Puco Contact OPSB  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2023 8:25 AM  
**To:** PUCO-Docketing  
**Subject:** public comment 21-1231-EL-BGN

On May 17th 2023 President and CEO of the Ohio Chamber of Congress Steve Stivers, submitted a letter in support of Fountain Point to the OPSB. A copy of which can be found on page 8 of the public comments. I don't know where Mr. Stivers lives, but it is not near here, and the OCC is 40 miles south and 2 counties away from the Fountain Point Project. The letter Mr. Stivers sent contained some inaccuracies. Had he resided in the area and involved himself with the project from the beginning, he would possibly have been better informed. Below is a rebuttal letter that was sent to Mr. Stivers, that is still waiting for a reply to this date. I am presenting it to the OPSB, so that it will be made clear as to why SB52 was crafted to involve LOCAL government and not those from outside the area.

Mr. Stivers,

I wanted to address a public comment that you recently submitted to the OPSB regarding The Fountain Point Solar project that is seeking an operating permit in Logan County. When I first moved to West Mansfield in 2007, there was a company that was attempting to build a huge chicken farm in the area. There were "No Chicken Farms" signs in every yard. There were many meetings held by the community to voice their displeasure with the farm's desire to move to the community. You were a state senator at the time, and I remember attending a community meeting at the Liberty Township Community Hall in Union County. I remember being impressed with what appeared to be genuine concern for what your constituents had to say. You talked about the need to stop these big companies from outside the state from coming into a community they knew nothing about, with no regard to concerns of the citizens of that community. I thought it refreshing to see a politician that actually had a desire to do something to help out their constituents. I walked away from that meeting impressed with you. I don't know if you had anything to do with the farm going away, but I was happy to see it go away none the less.

Fast Forward 15 years and now another huge company with majority holdings in Canada wants to surround the little home I bought in the country with solar panels on three sides of me. Our community has put together a grass roots effort to stop Invenergy from building Fountain Point. We have held many meetings, we have organized letter writing campaigns, had signs made, we have gone door to door to educate people on what is coming in and have passed around petitions. We formed an LLC and hired an attorney. In October of 2021 SB52 was ratified and gave a little power to local government to stop these projects from being built in their communities if they are not wanted. We have the support of the county commissioners, and the townships behind us. The county has been declared restricted from any further solar or wind development through a resolution. That tells you a little about how much this project is not wanted.

There are 8 criteria that the voting members of the OPSB are to analyze when deciding whether to grant an operating permit for these projects. Item #6 states "Does the project serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity". There are over 1300 letters of opposition submitted to the OPSB. We have provided them with petitions with over 800 signatures. (Compared to about 40 pro Fountain Point letters written to the OPSB and a petition with 219 signatures, ALL of those letters and signatures from well outside the project footprint.) This effort has been going on for almost 2 years now. The local governments have listened and have done their part. Now you, a politician from outside the area, write a letter directly to the Chair of the OPSB describing how important to the community and the businesses in the area this project is. The Logan County Chamber of Commerce hasn't even publicly voiced their opinion on the project, yet you believe you know what the local community needs. Have you been out here to talk to the people potentially affected by this project? Have you talked to any of the local business owners? Have you talked with the folks that sell seed and fertilizer to the farmers to see if their bottom line will be affected by losing out on 3000 acres of unplanted fields? Have you talked to the farm equipment repair facilities that will have less tractors to work on? The farm hands that will not have work, local construction services, plumbers, electricians, propane sales, fuel sales all this local business will lose work. See these projects bring in a bunch of construction workers to build the project (most of them are NOT local and are hired through

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People Ready), but once the thing is done, there will only be 2 permanent employees. From a chamber of commerce perspective, I don't see how local business losing work to gain 2 permanent jobs really makes any sense. I found it interesting that in your letter to Ms. French, that you noted how Invenergy will be making a private capital investment of \$340 Million dollars into domestic energy production in Logan County. You do realize that the vast majority of that money comes from government grants? So, the American taxpayer is funding domestic energy production, NOT a private entity. American Taxpayer money is paying a Canadian company to destroy some of the most fertile land in the United States, with millions of solar panels purchased from Communist China that were produced with slave labor in the Congo. Genius!!

I believe that the letter that you submitted was a purely political one, and it certainly is not welcomed by our community. I would like to extend an invitation to you to come out here and talk to the people that live and work here. Get to know them and how they will be affected by Fountain Point. If after that somehow you still believe that this is a good fit for our community, fine. But if you leave this community and find that the vast majority are vehemently opposed to Fountain Point, then I would ask you to rescind the letter that you submitted without doing any research on Fountain point or the people affected by it. You impressed me once Steve, let's see if you are still a politician for the people.

Respectfully,