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Majority Floor Leader Bill Seitz The Ohio House of Representatives

Chair Jenifer French Ohio Power Siting Board 180 E Broad St Columbus, OH 43215

CC: Mike Williams and Scott Elisar

RE: Frasier Solar Generation Facility, OPSB Case No. 23-0796-EL-BGN

Dear Director Williams,

I write today in support of the proposed Frasier Solar project in Knox County.

When the General Assembly passed SB 52, which I cosponsored, there was an explicit desire to grandfather late-stage projects to preserve regulatory certainty. Regulatory certainty is key to a healthy business climate in Ohio, hence, the grandfathering provisions in SB 52. While localized opposition to a grandfathered solar project may be of some relevance, it is by no means determinative as it may otherwise be if the project had not been protected by the grandfathering clauses of SB 52.

Frasier Solar clearly fits the bill to be grandfathered. While vocal local opposition to the project exists, so does vocal support for the project, as evidenced by the hundreds of letters on the OPSB docket in support of the project. Additionally, local government bodies have recognized Frasier Solar's grandfathered status and have remained neutral about the project, and the Knox County Commissioners approved a PILOT for Frasier Solar in August of 2023.

Open Road Renewables, the developer of Frasier Solar with an office in Mt. Vernon, has been actively working with the community and local leaders for several years to solicit feedback and improve the project. As currently proposed, Frasier Solar would result in a net increase in local jobs not only during construction, but also during operations, thanks to the dual-use of the project area for sheep grazing. And the local schools and community stands to gain over \$40 million in direct revenue over the life of the project.

Ohio's regional grid operator PJM has reported to the Ohio Legislature that our demand for energy is projected to grow dramatically over the next decade, and that there is a finite list of proposed generators in the PJM queue that can come online by 2030, most of which are solar projects like Frasier Solar. At a time when Ohio is forecasted to be short on energy over the next decade, well developed projects like

Frasier Solar fit well into the "all of the above" strategy to power our growing state, attract new businesses and employers, keep more of Ohio rate-payer dollars in our local economies, and make long-term investments in our local schools and communities.

I thus urge your approval of Frasier Solar's certificate application.

Sincerely,

William J. Seitz

Majority Floor Leader Ohio House of Representatives Columbus, Ohio 43215 (614) 466-8258

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