



Docketing Division  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 E Broad St., 11th Flr,  
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Ohio Power Siting Board Case No. 23-0145-EL-BGN

Dear Ohio Power Siting Board:

Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (“OPAE”) is a non-profit agency of 42 non-profit and government members that is dedicated advocating for energy policies that benefit low-income Ohioans as well as bringing energy-related solutions and services to Ohio’s low-income families. OPAE’s advocacy before the Board is born out of a vision for a healthier, more equitable future for Ohio communities. The purpose of this letter is to convey our support for the proposed Prairie Flyer Energy Storage Project (“Prairie Project”).

OPAE has been involved in proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for decades. More recently, OPAE has identified the benefits to low-income Ohioans that can arise out of proceedings before the Ohio Power Siting Board as well. OPAE was struck by the uniqueness of the Prairie Project and the way it proposes to utilize currently unused land<sup>1</sup> to benefit the grid with little to no impact on any other landowners in the area.

The Project will create over two dozen jobs on-site during the construction phase and approximately another two dozen jobs in ancillary supply chain and support services industries as acknowledged in the Commission’s Staff Report.<sup>2</sup> During the construction phase, these jobs are estimated to create approximately \$5 million in labor between approximately 48 full-time equivalent jobs.<sup>3</sup> These jobs support laborers and tradesmen and their families.

Additionally, the presence of battery storage in the area can help offset demand during peak hours thereby putting downward pressure on energy prices in the area. This price suppressing effect is a direct benefit to low-income Ohioans in the area. Low-income individuals historically have much higher energy burdens (percentage of total income spent on energy) compared to moderate- and higher-income individuals and therefore have less resources available to meet other basic needs.

Every day our members work with low-income and disadvantaged families to connect them with energy-related solutions and assistance provided by federal and state government agencies as well as public utilities. Our members deliver these services in all of Ohio’s 88 counties. Specifically, OPAE members serve more than 440,000 households annually by providing bill payment assistance, weatherization and energy efficiency, and housing services.

---

<sup>1</sup> Application p. 16.

<sup>2</sup> Staff Report pp. 14-15.

<sup>3</sup> Application Exhibit G p. 4.

Additionally, OP&AE members operate numerous programs supporting children and families including Head Start, job training, financial literacy, child nutrition, medical and dental clinics, affordable housing, and community development. We are passionate advocates of delivering energy-related economic justice to those in Ohio who are struggling to house, clothe and feed their families.

We join the majority of those who testified at the local public hearing, and the Staff of the Commission in supporting the approval of this Project.

OP&AE is aware of and is a voice for low-income Ohioans about the interrelationship between clean energy and healthy living. We realize that cleaner energy generation leads to healthier outcomes particularly in low-income and disadvantaged families. Battery storage, while not generation per se, can help reduce the need for the construction of additional traditional polluting forms of generation. We support this Project as an innovative way to modernize and bolster the grid.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Sarver", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Sarver  
Executive Director  
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities  
Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**3/11/2024 2:59:31 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 23-0145-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment In Support of the Prairie Flyer Energy Storage Project  
electronically filed by Mr. Robert Dove on behalf of Ohio Partners for Affordable  
Energy.