

**DOCKETING CASE#** 23-0930

**CUSTOMER NAME:** Lynne Hall

**CUSTOMER EMAIL ID:** denny.hallwoodfarm@gmail.com

**COMPANY NAME:** Personal

**CUSTOMER OF THE COMPANY?:** No

**FOR OPSB CASE, RESIDES IN PROJECT AREA?:** Yes

**SERVICE ADDRESS:** Richwood, Ohio (Union)

**COMMENT DESCRIPTION:** I am writing in support of the Richwood Solar Project. I retired with over 35 years' experience in public education and have noted the revenues this project will bring to our public schools. As a committee chair of the 2003 North Union levy campaign, I remember farmers and community members not wanting to raise their taxes to build new school buildings. It was not until the state provided 64% of the funding, that a levy passed. That brought \$36 million of outside money to our district, the biggest influx ever. Those new school buildings completely changed the look and feel of our community as will this tax money. I have seen figures of three times that amount that will come to North Union Schools from the three solar projects in our district. The Richwood Solar project alone would bring over \$40 million across 40 years. Additionally, I am a strong proponent of landowner rights and served on the Union County Farm Bureau board for two terms. Our Farm Bureau leaders have spoken out about SB 52 and their concern that it will limit what landowners can do on their farms. Property rights must trump all and a positive for solar is that when a proper decommissioning happens when the project ends, the land will go back to farming, as it has always been. Some of the land could even be farmed during the solar project years thru agrivoltaics. That will not be the case for many farm acres in our county as development pressure takes farmland permanently over the next 40 years. Many opposition members of our community stress that they greatly value the miracle of what the sun can do thru photosynthesis to grow crops and provide a food supply. But they do not support a project using this same miraculous source to harvest and produce clean, green energy that will connect to our local power grid. This seems hypocritical. Farmers deserve the right to harvest what they want on their land and these farmers are choosing to harvest clean, local energy for our growing community.

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Summary: Public Comment electronically filed by Lynne Hall.