

June 21, 2021

DEAR HOUSE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

77 South High St.

This is Jed and Angie Hanna of 3251 Wilberforce Clifton Rd. Cedarville, OH 45314 reaching out to you. We our members of Citizens for Greene Acres (CGA). We are reaching out to you regarding Senate Bill 52. This is an urgent call to action to move forward on this bill. Small rural communities are being bureaucratic bullied and runover by BIG SOLAR COMPANIES. Local municipalities need a seat at the OPSB table! They know their communities and what is best for them. Local citizens and taxpayers should not be having to pay thousands of dollars in order to participate in this process. We have a proposed Kingwood Solar Project, in our community that will transitions 1500 acres of beautiful farmland into an industrial solar plant. These projects are not just 1 or 2 farmers signing up 100 acres of land. This is 1500 acres which a forever impact on our community. It transitions our beloved rural community into an industrial zone! Our community has raised thousands of dollars to have legal representation for our voices to be heard along with our townships and county commissioners. This current process is not fair or ethical. We need this bill urgently passed to help save our community and many other small rural communities. Don't let the word "farm" in solar farm fool you. These projects totally fall under the industrial zone. We've been in turmoil and such stress over this project for over two years now. To give you a little background

3251 Wilberforce Clifton Rd. Cedarville, OH 45314

on us, Jed Hanna comes from a family of farmers. In fact, his family started farming back in 1866 and his family farm is an Ohio Sesquicentennial Farm. Farmland is so valuable and holds such deep meaning to our family. We have many acres signed up into the Tecumseh Land Trust because we believe so strongly in preserving farmland. We can't even fathom any farmland would be transformed into industrialized solar panels, and especially not in our community or back yard. We are surrounded by beautiful farmland and we love looking at it and the ambiance it provides. If Kingwood Solar Project would replace such beautiful farmland with its eye sore panels, that have so many negative impacts that we cannot see anything "green" about them. We seem to equate utilizing farmland with solar panels, with the saying "to rob Paul to pay Peter". We are taking valuable farmland out of production in order to make "green energy". In the meanwhile, while borrowing farmland for 40 years plus we are growing an even bigger problem in regard to worldwide hunger. People around the world are starving and will continue with the path we are on. With Worldwide Hunger on the rise according to the United Nations, an estimated 821 million people in the world suffered from hunger in 2018. We realize climate change is an issue too, but this is not an appropriate nor responsible way to use green energy. We recently read this quote in an article from John Hadder, Executive Director of Great Basin Resource Watch, "There's nothing 'green' about sloppy permitting". This is exactly how we feel about the Kingwood Solar Project & how the OPSB is operating.

As mentioned above, the Hanna Family has been in the area farming for 150 years. Jed Hanna has lived in Cedarville all his life and continues his family tradition as a farmer, farming alongside his father. Jed bought our home in 2003 on land contract and tells me it was quite rough back then. He put his blood, sweat, tears, and money into this house and has built it into a beautiful home for our family. Jed and I married in 2010 and started a family together. Along with my daughter Natalie, we have a 9-year-old daughter, Halle and a 7-year-old son, Hank. We love our piece of heaven that sits back the lane off Wilberforce Clifton Rd. If this solar

project goes through, we will now be surrounded on three sides of our home by solar panels with a chain linked fence inclosing it. Not at all what we dreamed for our dream home. We love being surrounded by farmland, farmed by a local farmer. We cherish the sunrises and sunsets over a field of corn or wheat. We've always had a good relationship with all neighbors & other farmers who farm the area. But this proposed project has just pinned neighbors against neighbors. There has been a lot of deceit in regards to this project from the solar company & from the neighbors who have leased their land. Lendlease, now Vesper Energy, has lacked transparency with this project from the beginning. Everything has been very sneaky and hush hush don't talk to your neighbor. Thank goodness there have been concerned citizens that talked with their neighbors and the word has gotten out. We have educated ourselves, stressed ourselves out, and we are not going to watch this plow over our community without a fight. There are many concerns with this proposed project. One being our property values decreasing. We are very concerned about this and John Soininen, past Project Manager for (they are now on their third Project Manager) Vesper blows this off and states "I would think people would want to live near this." No one in this community wants to live near this except the 16 landowners, who were bribed with large sums of money to sign up their land. We understand landowners have rights to do what they want with their land, but this is sneaking around all the zoning regulations, and land use purposes of our townships. It's simply just not right and it feels like bureaucratic bullying by Vesper Energy. Also, the other 17,000 township residents have property rights too. We live in a rural area because we enjoy the scenery and the zoning we live in supports that. We have no desire to be surrounded by an industrialized solar plant. If Kingwood would go through, our once beautiful property will be surrounded with eye sore solar panels and a chain linked fence. John Soininen came to our house after he received an email from us with our concerns. He talked about they could put up trees etc. if we wanted to sign up for "the good neighbor program". He did not entail all the details of that program, nor did we want to know as we are not

interested. As we have heard from other counties, who have experienced this situation, the good neighbor program is typically a payout to us to keep our mouths shut and not dispute the project. This kind of project being proposed into a community seems more appropriate to be on a voting ballot. This is not appropriate to allow 16 bribed landowners the decision of our community. Why should they decide the future of this community? There has been land for sale on Wilberforce Clifton Rd. and Tobias Rd. since the summer. Typically, houses and land in Cedarville goes very quickly. This property is still sitting for sale, as everyone knows now that it will be surrounded by solar panels. There was also a home for sale two doors down from us that sat listed for sale for a year. The only reason it sold, was the new homeowners' children and grandchildren live right next door to it. So, already we are seeing decrease in home values and land values. No one wants to be around this! We have such a beautiful place to live surrounded by beautiful farmland and state parks. This does not fit in this setting.

Another major concern is the potential impact on the wildlife. Every season every year we watch the deer move from one side of the woods thru the field to the other side of the woods. Where will these deer go if they are not able to roam and move about as they always have? Also, concerned with the increased temperature from the solar panels that insects that typically die off in the winter may not as they can survive in the warmth of the panels.

Also, we are very concerned about the potential for our wells to be harmed from the solar panels. Along, with other health concerns regarding the chemicals that compose these panels. Along with the recent tornadoes we have had rip through this area and straight-line winds. There's just so many concerns & questions with this project. This just doesn't seem right and there's way too many red flags. Also, the fact that this energy isn't even benefitting our community. It's being sent to the East Coast. We are being manipulated and used! There is no benefit to us. We believe in green energy if it is sited properly. This is irresponsible and doesn't align

with our zoning and our land use purposes. Communities deserve to have a say if this appropriate in their community. Please grant them the ability to have a voice in this process. Please urgently push Senate Bill 52 through!! Farmland is dying every day from this Industrial Plot from BIG SOLAR. Save our Farmland!! Thank you for your time.

SINCERELY,



Jed & Angie Hanna & Family