



Statewide Contact Information: P.O. Box 521 • Granville, Ohio 43023 • 614-902-2465 • www.GreenEnergyOhio.org

Ohio Power Siting Board Public Hearing
November 10, 2021

Good evening, my name is Robert McCollister, and I am a member of the Green Energy Ohio (GEO) Board of Directors. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of the Dodson Creek solar project in Highland County currently under development by National Grid Renewables.

Green Energy Ohio (GEO) is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable energy policies, technologies, and practices through education and outreach. We represent a diverse membership of individuals, businesses, community and government entities, and academic institutions who share GEO's mission.

The GEO Statement of Policy Positions endorses investment in utility-scale solar projects for the broad range of economic and environmental benefits that these facilities provide. First and foremost, local communities are the beneficiaries of these projects, through substantial Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) that support local school districts and government facilities. In the case of Dodson Creek, this revenue is estimated to be in excess of \$1 million annually. A unique feature of this project is the creation of the Dodson Creek Charitable Fund. The Fund is designed to engage with and assist local organizations and community activities that rely on contributions. We often focus on the important advantages that flow to local governments, including school districts, as a result of projects such as Dodson Creek. The establishment of this fund recognizes the broader needs that exist throughout communities – needs that are being addressed by nonprofit and volunteer entities. In addition, National Grid Renewables takes pride in their "farmer-friendly" value system, acknowledging the critical role that rural landowners play in these developments.

GEO understands the importance of corporate citizenship and the trust that is developed through long-term investment in the state. National Grid Renewables has identified a half dozen Ohio solar projects which would produce a combined 1,000 MW of power. As a corporation with solar, wind, and storage assets nationwide, they have a proven track record of responsible development and operation.

The need for renewable energy generated by large-scale solar farms is constantly increasing. The demand is being driven by residential consumers, small businesses, large corporations, and municipal governments, all of whom are seeking a decrease in energy costs, greater sustainability, and reductions in their carbon footprint. By adding up to 117 MW of solar energy, Dodson Creek will serve these goals through a clean and sustainable technology.

Thank you for your time, and I appreciate your consideration of my remarks.