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Ohio Power Siting Board Public Hearing
July 19, 2021

Good evening, my name is Jane Harf, and I am the Executive Director of Green Energy Ohio (GEO). Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of the Pleasant Prairie Solar Energy Center in Franklin County currently under development by Invenergy.

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. Green Energy Ohio has members and supporters throughout the state, including many in the Central Ohio area.

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 municipal services. For example, it is estimated that the South-Western City School District, Ohio's sixth largest public school district, could receive more than \$1 million dollars annually from this project. This is in addition to monies for townships, libraries, fire districts, and other local entities.

At the same time, GEO recognizes that there is more to being a good neighbor than funding, and we applaud the efforts that Invenergy has made to hear and address concerns of community members throughout the process – both residents whose land they will be leasing and those who live nearby the proposed site. Their commitment to 80% local construction labor is yet another way to ensure that Ohioans are benefitting.

The need for clean, affordable renewable energy generated by large-scale solar farms is constantly increasing, driven by the demands of corporations with aggressive sustainability goals and municipal governments – like Columbus – who have committed to reducing their carbon footprint through aggregation. In a summer of intense heat in the western U.S., catastrophic flooding in Europe, and the early onset of the hurricane season, we must take into account the environmental value of adding renewable resources to the energy grid. Having just completed GEO's Statewide Electric Vehicle Tour, I have become even more aware of the climate impact of the transportation sector. As a measure of benefit, this project is estimated to reduce emissions equivalent to taking over 55,000 internal combustion engine automobiles off the road.

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