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To: Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board

From: Jane Harf, Executive Director, Green Energy Ohio

I am writing on behalf of Green Energy Ohio in support of the Fountain Point Solar Energy Center in Logan 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, advocacy, and outreach. We represent a diverse constituency 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 public schools, local government services, and infrastructure improvements. In the case of Fountain Point, this revenue is estimated to be \$1.9 million annually to Logan County, with additional investments, including landowner payments, greatly increasing that amount.

Dollars and cents are only part of what makes a project a good neighbor. Invenergy's commitment to the community before, during, and after construction is just as important. The rural environment that residents value has been shown to be compatible with solar farms across the Midwest, more so than many other industrial development projects of greater scope and disruption, as well as less return to the local area. Invenergy's local engagement ensures a partnership going forward.

One way to maintain a connection to farmland is through Agrivoltaics, the combination of agricultural production and solar energy generation. Invenergy's vegetation management plan explores various plantings suitable for the completed project. Whether it is traditional crops, native grasses, or pollinators, these practices reduce soil erosion, protect water resources, diminish aesthetic concerns, and provide a beneficial dual-use system.

The need for renewable energy generated by large-scale solar farms is constantly increasing. The demand is being driven by residential consumers, small businesses, and municipal governments, all of whom are seeking a decrease in energy costs, greater sustainability, and reductions in their carbon footprint. That demand will grow even more as Ohio becomes a preferred location for distribution hubs, data centers, and new 21st century manufacturing. By adding up to 280 MW of solar energy, Fountain Point will serve these needs through a reliable, clean, and sustainable technology.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.