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Ohio Power Siting Board Public Hearing
October 20, 2021

Good evening, my name is Chris Meyer, and I am a member and Past President of the Green Energy Ohio (GEO) Board of Directors. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of the Yellow Wood Solar Energy Center in Clinton 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.

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. Education in Franklin and Jefferson Townships – including the local school districts and vocational schools – is estimated to receive \$1.2 million annually from this project, with another \$1.5 going to support county and township services. Local landowners benefit from lease payments that allow their agricultural operations to continue; while, at the same time, studies have shown that neighboring properties do not decrease in value.

GEO recognizes the importance of trust in relationships between developers and local communities, and Invenergy has over a decade of experience in Ohio. They have a proven track record of community engagement and a commitment to address the unique circumstances of each project. During the development and certification process, multiple land use studies are undertaken to identify sensitive environmental resources and ensure a high degree of environmental stewardship. As a leader in innovative technology, Invenergy's solar energy centers produce clean, safe, and efficient power that protects public health and the environment.

The need for renewable energy generated by large-scale solar farms is constantly increasing, driven by the demands of residential consumers, small businesses, large corporations, and municipal governments, all of whom are seeking greater sustainability and reductions in their carbon footprint. By producing up to 300 MW of clean energy, the Yellow Wood Solar Energy Center makes a significant contribution to Ohioans' ability to achieve those goals.

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