

Blank spaces indicate an inaudible recording.

Public Solar Hearing held at Southern State Community College 09/16/2021

Commissioner Duncan: We are going to be taking testimony from proponents and opponents this evening. We ask that you respect others in testifying. We will be recording this by video and voice. Eventually we will be transcribing it into text, and we will then respond from the questions we receive this evening within a 10-day period via letter. With that being said, we ask that you speak clearly and slowly so we can understand you. We also ask that when you come to the podium, we will call your name and ask you to come to the podium, but when you do come to the podium would you please recite your name and your address so we can get that down to match the voice with the transcript. If your name is called, and you are unable to come to the podium let us know and we will bring you a microphone. With that being said, it's a little after 6:00 p.m. we'll get started here. I know there still some outside coming in but let's go ahead and get started. We'll call the first witness.

Rebecca Williams: I am Rebecca Williams at 4545 Panhandle Road, New Vienna, Ohio 45159 –
Commissioner Daniels: If you would pull your mask down, I think that transcription would be much better.
Rebecca Williams: I live in Highland County. A few things I'd like to clarify. This is my statement. This is my opinion. It's not my husbands. We have our own opinions in our own household. We are also both against the solar, but these are my opinions and my statements tonight. I voted for you. I voted for you because my husband respects you and I respect his opinion. I tried to defend you and your actions. I wrote a letter to the prosecutor and the only thing that happened were my words were twisted, publicly twisted and turned against me but that's kind of what a good attorney does is they don't have the technical background then you disqualify your witness right. I wanted to make sure that you guys were getting the legal advice needed because I know you guys didn't sign up for this, just like our trustees didn't sign up for this. They signed up to put in culverts, mow ditches and take care of the community. I just wanted to make sure that everyone was getting the assistance and the proper information they needed. Much like Clinton County Commissioners who hired attorneys that are familiar with the process. John Werkman from Ohio Department of Development stated that he hasn't met with the commissioners for several years, in fact Mr. Abernathy was still seated on the commissioners the last time he met. So, that once again makes me question how up to date is your information on the PILOT program and the RUMA program. Mr. Werkman specifically said the reason Highland County is being bombarded by all these projects is because as commissioners we have rolled out the red carpet by approving the PILOT and the Road Use Agreement. At what point has Highland County done their part for this alleged green energy. When will you draw the line on the desecration of our county? This is not about green energy; it's about the profit of a few at the expense of many. I'd also like to address that if you are in an elected position and you have a conflict of interest whether it be a trustee, a commissioner, an auditor that if you have to remove yourself from a vote because of a conflict of interest you are silencing voices. It's no longer a democracy then I believe the only respectable thing would be to do, is to resign and step down and put somebody in that position that can represent the community. I do not see how an Auditor, fiscal officer or trustees can advise unbiasedly if they have a conflict of interest. I am going to leave it at that, Thank you.

Leslie Simpson: Hello, my name is Leslie Simpson, and my address is 9865 Mad River Road, New Vienna, Ohio 45159. To start, just a little background. My grandfather who will speak later, he has been a Highland County resident for over 60 years. I grew up on his farms. My late grandmother, she used to be out, she used to help me with hog farming, and we are a very, very, very close-knit family. My sister is also here today. My grandfather has three daughters, and then 9 grandchildren and 19 great-

grandchildren. So, he has built a legacy in Highland County. He owns multiple acres. I am one of many of the grandkids that have grown up in that area and again we are a very close-knit family. When this solar panel project came to our area, I knew nothing about it, absolutely nothing. My grandfather is 83 years old and sat down with a gentleman who presented this idea to him. Now my grandfather is 83, but he is very sharp to the mind. He has taught me how to utilize 401K. He has taught me about stocks and bonds and setting up a future, setting up for what will come because you all know that this generation that we are seeing right now, they are okay with just getting by. They are okay with just paycheck to paycheck and my grandfather has taught me you know you gotta look for your future. You gotta prepare for things. Buy the things you need and save for what you want and build your life. We gotta think about retirement, about our children. Again, one of 3 of his great grandchildren are mine. So, when the solar panel project came. I was skeptical. I wasn't quite sure, it was something foreign to me, something I didn't know anything about. We live in a very, very, very small town. New Vienna is a very small town. However, I had been on vacation. I went out and have seen these solar panels. They are quite cool looking. It's not ugly to me. It's not scary to me and in fact this is something that is not new. Places outside of Ohio _____ for a long time and it benefits. The ecosystem can benefit from it. The profits that people benefit from this, our local school districts. I have 3 kids; my sister has 4. There is so much that we can benefit in such a small town. I know that people are thinking like oh it will only benefit some and not all. Well, it benefits all of us, it really does, its clean energy. It so good for the economy. So good for our ecosystem and then, I got to thinking too why would anybody think that it would be a bad idea? Why would anybody think that having something that is clean, why would anybody think that this is a bad idea? It could provide more jobs. It could provide just so, so much good. Again, my grandfather he has been living in the area for a long time. When he brought this to my attention, and I heard other people speak about it and say that they didn't like the idea and thought it would be horrible for pollution and all of this, and I did some digging. There is absolutely no risk. There is no risk. I know that a lot of people don't like the way it looks. I know a lot of issues are based off of I don't want it in my area, I don't want to look at it but in all reality it would just be beneficial. I mean it would be beneficial. I support it. I actually just purchased a property in Highland County. I think it would be beneficial for our school districts, our economy, our ecosystem. Let our lands just fill up more carbon and flourish because in 30 years my kids can potentially farm the land that by grandfather owns.

Misty Carter: My name is Misty Carter, I live at 6335 Abernathy Road, Lynchburg, Ohio 45142. My home is one of the many that will be at the center of the Dodson Creek Solar Utility Installation. Myself and my family just like many of these people here are fighting to protect our homes from the devastating effects of these deals that have been made. We have property rights too. The right to enjoy our properties at peace without being injured by adjoining property owners. My questions to you: In the beginning at the Lynchburg-Fire Station you took a stance of being powerless over decisions made concerning these solar projects. You have since then stated, only when pressured, that you have advocated for negatively impacted residences. At what point in the process and specifically how or in what ways have you done so? How much money, looking for a dollar amount, would I have to throw at Highland County to be represented, have a voice, to be considered, and have a seat at the table? With the passing of SB52, will you commit to making Highland County a restricted area or will you restrict or designate any portion of the county for consideration of future projects? Lastly, would any of you elect to move or live inside these areas? Thank you.

Wayne Mitchell: (19:05) My name is Wayne Mitchell. I live at 9865 Mad River Road, New Vienna, Ohio 45159. I have approximately 200 acres of farmland. Nathan Brown farms it for me. I signed up approximately 70 acres of land for this project. Certainly, would like it to go through with since so much of the money is being used in schooling, for the schools. Of course, I have grandchildren and great

grandchildren that need more education, I am sure. That is the reason I am here. I am just hoping something can be done to proceed with this and get the siting board to accept it for what it is. Most of the property that I own, the ground is not highly fertile. Medium farmland. I just think it is very durable for solar panels and a lot less for corn and soybeans and I'm sure Nathan would agree about that. That is the reason I am here. I hope we can do something to get this project so that we can get the money for the county and for the schools and I am putting money in the Wayne Mitchell trust fund that will be used for my great grandchildren's education. That is the reason I am here.

Miriam Issacs: Hello, my name is Miriam Issacs and I live at 5695 Panhandle Road, New Vienna, Ohio 45159. I am in the Palomino Area. I want to say a few things (21:31) and I have concerns, but I am not against solar. I have said that before, but I am against solar using agriculture fields. I moved to the country because I love the country, I wanted out of the city. I love green like I said, green trees, grass, plants, all that open spaces, clean air, wildlife, and habit. And you know I tried to look at the pros and cons but I'm like the rest of the people here. If I haven't had it and I haven't lived all around it, it's trying to surround me on three sides then really this is just my opinion and my concerns, but everyone has their own and I respect that, but I am concerned about the decrease in the property value. I don't want to be surrounded on all three sides I think it's an ugly eyesore. That's not what I moved to the country for. I could have stayed in the city if I wanted to see dirty, ugly things to me. A lot of times I think gosh three sides and the sun beating down all the time. It has to be hot. Wouldn't that cause climate change? I don't need any more heat. I have enough hot flashes on my own. I worry about food. You know I worry about the future. We have an influx of people coming in from all over. We see so many disasters. It's like we are all getting pushed together. We are going to need more land for food and water. That's what I envision on my property I love seeing the habitat and the different animals. I worry about the quality of the air, and I heard that all around me is going to go to Cincinnati. And I am thinking why can't Cincinnati do this? Why do they have to come down here and ruin my view and my beautiful space? Why can't they keep it up there if it's for them? So, I am confused. I don't understand, me, why someone would move to the country and then want to turn their land into solar fields. Do they really realize what this land, if it's really good later to be used for anything? I don't understand if they have really been researched. Like I said if you haven't used it, or it hasn't surrounded you all you have is opinion, but I ask you, please don't push this around me and I thank you.

Melba Allen: Good evening, my name is Melba Allen, 416 Barker Road, Fayetteville, Ohio 45118, Highland County. Along with my husband and I we have property on Anderson and Johnson Road in Union Township. We have a contract with Palomino Solar to put panels on our property. Commissioners why are we here today? For us, in the beginning it was financial opportunity, to cut back on farming, to pay bills and enjoy life a little while we still could. But now it is a private attack, a personal attack on us and other landowners in their project. So, we are here to plead to you to not take our property away from us because of those that oppose solar, some of them miles away and some that won't see it unless they drive by it. We have to fight to retain our rights to do what we want with our land. If solar panels or something else they don't like does not justify our land rights to be taken away from us. We have owned this property for 20 years. Our deed has two names on it: Ronald and Melba Allen, no one else's. We pay the taxes. No one else. We don't know these people; they don't know us but for them to sit in judgement of property owners is wrong. I don't know you gentleman. You may be landowners yourself, but I can't imagine you would want someone to tell you what to do with your property. Sorry _____ our land in the solar project is not a reason to hurt and forbid those of us who have land _____. To deny a landowner the right to do what they want with their property is just wrong. Solar panels _____ the farms for choosing solar panels that in all honesty it's better for the ground because there is no fertilize, herbicide, insecticides needed for solar. It is a more

environmentally friendly. This is important to us because farming is a gamble from year to year. You never know how much rain it will take to ____ a crop, seed _____ provide chemicals, upkeep of the land and equipment. It's not cheap. _____ income. With the solar projects it allows us to have an additional income for those years that might not be as profitable. Times are changing and some people don't like change. With the world being in such chaos and uncertainty lets calm down and embrace the changes that are coming and the benefits for the schools, the community and businesses will receive from this project. So, commissioners we as landowners are leaving it up to you to do what is best for the schools, communities, businesses and please do not let us lose our property rights. Please support the solar projects. Thank you for your time.

Pat Brown: Pat Brown, 9650 Dade Road, Lynchburg, Ohio 45142. I live next to the proposed Palomino Project. Just like the other folks in my groups, I have a lot of concerns about these projects. The biggest concern I have personally is what it will happen to property values of those living next to or in close proximity of these projects? I have asked the project manager this question twice. Answer one was, we did a study in Texas and 23 other states, not including Ohio, and found that there was very little to no effect on surrounding property values. What I didn't find, answer two was, we did a Study in Texas and 23 other states, not including Ohio and found there was no effect or positive effect to surrounding property values. We will do a study and present it to the Ohio Power Siting Board. So, my questions are, what will this study consist of? Will local realtors be included? Will local appraisers or appraisal companies be included? Will something be mailed out to the residents of Highland County asking, would want to live next to or buy land next to a solar development? An individual posted to our Facebook page stating they had an appraisal done on their property for refinance. The appraisal came back lower than they expected with a note on the appraisal stating that a 2500-acre solar field is being developed nearby. If these solar developments have no effect on property values then why was that written on their appraisal? Why are there so many houses going up for sale on my road and the roads nearby me who are going to be surrounded on several sides by the solar panels? Innergex mailed me a letter with their location and then the fact that these panels are going to be but have never asked why or what would the people think about solar developments going up in their neighborhoods because I think they already know what the answer will be. So, in closing I am asking you the commissioners, to please intervene to stop these solar projects to allow more research to be done to on the effects of property values and many of the concerns that have been brought up or will be brought up this evening? Thank you.

Melanie Hawk: My name is Melanie Hawk, 5139 Franklin Road, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133. I stand here before you gentlemen and ladies in support of the solar projects. It is the corporate companies like Amazon, Facebook, Cargo, AVM (?) that is pushing this everyday goldrush to our area. They have to buy the green energy credits which is what Cincinnati has purchased, not the energy from them. Ohio set up PILOT payments years ago to entice these companies to come into our homes in the State of Ohio to build these solar farms, windmill farms, to produce power to hit the grid because they knew all these coal powered plants that were built in the 60's were going to be decommissioned. They knew that 25 years ago. This is today's everyday gold rush. It's all brand new. There is a lot of steps to be done, I agree but there is a lot of benefits to come. These benefits are for our school systems, our communities, for our board of health, board of DD, our Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health. Those entities plus more will be benefited from the Palomino Project as well as Dodson Creek, Yellow Wood. Solar is the future. There are so many people now that are putting solar panels being put on homes. They are also being put on businesses to offset cost of energy usage. They are also being put in the back fields of our schools. Western Brown and Fayetteville are two of the closest ones we have, solar panels sitting on the backside. If it is so toxic and so harmful for our children why would we allow, why would the state

allow them to be placed on school property? Are we going to sit back and not take advantage of the money that these companies are coming in here and are willing to spend? Are we going to let them pass us by, forget Highland County, leave us in the dark, leave us struggling or are we going to take that 1.3 million, or 1.8 million every year just for the Palomino Project and put that into our community? The coal fire plants are shutting down. They have to be able to supplement that. Solar is the way to get that supplemented. As a farmer, I am here to tell you, I am also a landowner. My project has been built. My project has made payments. My project has made payments to the state. My local school district has already received their payments that my farm ground lies in which is in Western Brown School District. As a farmer, I understand early on that these fields are of good value to crops but it also a good value to put down the solar panels. This is not prime farm ground. This is the best type of soil to put them in, to hold them so that they can produce energy for the rest of the 35-40 years. My question here tonight for you all is are you going to sit and let these companies go somewhere else and pass us by or are you going to take advantage that we have at hand and let the solar energy come into Highland County? And I am sure that if farming was so wonderful and everybody enjoyed our views and if it was that much value then maybe we should start charging as farmers for our green space.

Karen Faust: 2540 SR 131, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133. I will apologize because I am probably going to step on your toes because I know you guys well. My husband and I live on a farm in southern Highland County. We have two sons, and their wives and 6 grandsons who also live on our family farm. Our farm is an Ohio Century Farm, in fact it has been in our family for 6 generations. Over the years our family has had discussions about the importance of that farm remaining as an agricultural entity. We value using our farm for raising crops and animals, for producing agricultural products for our community. We have even talked about putting it into the farmland preservation program. Now we find that within a 10-mile radius of our farm are 8 industrial solar utilities in some stage of development encompassing approximately 15,000 acres. The solar industry has elected to call these facilities solar "farms". These are not farms they are industrial size utilities. This was a calculated move on the part of developers to make these utilities more palatable. So, when pro solar representatives say, "Would you rather have a manufacturing plant or a housing development on the land?" you can reply it is a manufacturing plan – an industrial size solar utility plant. Solar development is very complex and can be very divisive. I've learned more about solar in the past 2 months than I ever thought I needed or wanted to know, and I still don't have a total grasp on what is taking place in our area. But here is what I have found. Currently, Highland County has 10,262 acres of prime farmland in some type of solar development – pre application, pending, pre-construction, or under construction 6 separate solar farms. Two other solar farms are predominately in neighboring counties but have some acreage in or are contiguous to Highland County which most likely puts that figure approaching 12,000 acres. Far more than any other county in Ohio. New Market I & II 1000 plus, Hecate – 3500, Palomino – 2800, Willowbrook – 1500, Dodson Creek 1462 = 10, 262 acres. Yellow Wood – 3000 and Hillcrest 1350. There are an estimated 15-20 more projects like Hillcrest in the works near Mt. Orab. Dale Arnold – OFBA estimates that Ohio has another 10 years of new development in solar energy. At what point do we reach a level of saturation? The pro solar bloc is well funded – they have professional social media sites; they had a booth at the fair with slick professionally done materials and a paid employee promoting their cause. Those of us who have concerns are just ordinary citizens. We aren't well funded. We don't have slick materials. We don't have paid employees to promote our cause. We depend on elected officials to protect us. That your county commissioners, township trustees and state legislators. I understand that many of you elected officials feel much like I do – there is so much info out there that I am overwhelmed. We have heard you as commissioners state "We can't do anything

" To quote your letter: "It is also important to point out that our responsibility on operations over 50 megawatts is limited to two areas. First, whether to accept a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT). This is a more simplified taxing system that guarantees a stable revenue stream over the lifetime of the project. Understand that this is not a tax break; it changes the way taxes are paid. It has been our position we ask for the maximum amount allowable by law to provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of Highland County. The Road Use Maintenance Agreement (RUMA) is put in place to repair any damage to roadways that are caused by increased traffic because of the construction process." But there are some things you can do and should do.

Rescind Highland County Resolution No. 11-96 that makes Highland County an alternative energy zone therefore welcoming solar facilities into our county. When it was signed in 2011 the situation here was quite different than it is now. The resolution says to solar developers "Come on down" Highland County is open for business. Perhaps it's time to slow down that development.

Explain PILOT for what it is – it is a tax break for solar operations. Payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) – the very name "in lieu of" says to me instead of paying taxes I'll make this lower payment. Ohio law states that Ohio's PILOT program reduces property tax liability for owners of commercial scale renewable energy generation facilities. I think "reduces property tax liability" means it's a tax break. Clinton Highland Counties for Solar Energy Facebook page (again professionally done) states: Ohio's payment in lieu of taxes program (also called PILOT) allows for energy projects of a certain size to be exempt from property taxes and instead pay service fees to the county in which the projects are located. PILOT is also described as: an incentive for investment in taxable infrastructure or other facilities that create a public benefit, a PILOT may be negotiated to limit or defer the property taxes on a developer, striking a balance between public and private economic needs. In effect, the local taxpayers are subsidizing the development, which might otherwise have gone elsewhere. This has occurred in poor rural areas where large alternative energy systems are often placed, providing cost relief to the owner and a limited tax payment to the locals. Sounds like a tax break to me, so be up front and call it what it is.

When I read it in the paper that the PILOT was described not as a tax break but as a more simplified way of paying taxes, I believed it. I even said to my husband look this is not a tax break just a different way of paying the taxes. But as I began to do research I found that it was indeed a tax break. I depended on my elected officials to tell me the truth and you didn't. I know all of you. I trusted you.

In fairness there are advantages and disadvantages to PILOT:

With PILOT – more stable, (although there are some things that can affect the total amount) W/O a lot of variables go into taxation schedules that can cause the payment to vary from year to year. The land should be taxed as a utility, not as farmland. With PILOT – the school's tax base is not increased and therefore it does not affect the school's state foundation aid. W/O PILOT, the tax base would be increased which could result in a reduction of state aid for the school. The question is would that reduction be compensated for with the increased tax that would be collected.

Initially, more there would be more tax dollars without PILOT. According to the Ohio Department of Taxation, using a 200 MW facility as an example, it's estimated that over \$4 million per year would be collected in Highland County without PILOT, but depreciation and other factors could decrease the amount over the length of the project. PILOT payment would be \$1.8 million. It would be limited to that.

So, I say to you Commissioners don't automatically accept PILOT. The Clinton County Commissioners have opted to deny PILOT for the Yellow Wood project. Preble County Commissioners have declined the PILOT for solar development in their county. If you decide to offer PILOT will you make some other protection as part of it such as: Requirements for buffers, setbacks, screening, soil erosion and water runoff controls and minimizing the use of prime farmland soils for solar installations. Will you ensure that no residences should not be surrounding by panels? Perhaps there should be some type of payment that these solar companies can make to homeowners to somewhat compensate them. There are cases of homeowners being paid for their inconvenience. And maybe we should protect the wildlife habitat such as bald eagle nests. What happens in 15-20 years when technology has improved, and these panels are obsolete? We may not need all these solar utilities, or the panels may not be efficient enough. As we have seen with any technology it can change very rapidly. Or companies go belly up. Are we left with brownfields? Can these farms really be brought back to profitable farmland? Was the topsoil removed? How do you remove tons of stone? Highland Stone could not keep up with the amount of stone needed for the Hillcrest project. Some would tell you that layers of GeoMat is laid down before the stone is put on the ground and in 20-30 years they will just fold up the material with the stone in and dispose of it. Really? According to the Solar Rep at the fair there are no examples, successful or otherwise of reclamation of land that has been in solar utility for 20-20 years. We don't know whether that land can actually be returned to the same fertility that it was when the facility as built. Remember it takes 100 years to make an inch of topsoil. And if the property was purchased outright rather than leased there is no requirement that the land be reclaimed.

County/School funding: The PILOT money doesn't start until the project is operational. Does it continue only as long as the project is operational? Or is it guaranteed for the entire 30 years of the project or only as long as the facility is operational? When the funding stops for schools and county projects how will they replace that money that they now have gotten used to having? There will still be consumables to purchase, maintenance costs for projects and salaries to pay that were subsidized by this money.

I have just scratched the surface of a very complex industry. But with SB 52 coming into effect, we need to be looking at the long term for Highland County rather than the short term.

Since the press release states that you will answers all questions in 10 days here are my questions. Please answer in specifics and not just yes or no. Please explain your decisions.

1. Will you rescind Highland County Resolution No. 11-96 that makes Highland County an alternative energy zone?
2. As referred to in SB 52, will you designate the county or portions, thereof, as exclusionary zones for solar projects?
3. Will you file an application with OPSB that permits commissioners to reject a project?
4. Will you start saying that the PILOT is indeed a tax abatement?
5. Will you exercise your ability to consider declining the PILOT for future projects?
6. How will you make sure that all county residents are protected? Please be specific.
7. In order to provide the best blueprint for Highland County in the future, will you as the County Commissioners: Appoint a committee of county citizens (stakeholders) who can become educated on all aspects of the solar industry or hire a non-biased consultant who can help the county navigate this process and make the best decisions for all the people of the county.

Annette Houck: 9711 SR 73, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

My name is Annette Houck 9711 SR 73, Hillsboro, Ohio. I am here with my husband Michael representing our farm, and Houck Farms, LLC. We are here today as landowners in the Palomino project and to support solar farms. Based on the 2017 USDA agricultural census there is 287,972 acres of farmland in Highland County. Of that acreage 34% is no till, 14% is reduced till, 10% is cover crop and only 10% intensive till. What this means is Highland County located in the foothills of Appalachia must be farmed a certain way to be productive in order to prevent erosion, loss of topsoil and compensate for areas of poor drainage. Farmers have a right to use their land in whatever way they choose for what works best for their farm. If that includes solar, then that is their choice. The farm bills conservation program CRP has compensated farmers and landowners for taking highly erodible and other environmentally sensitive lands out of crop production and enrolled them instead in conservation practices. For CRP, the USDA pays farmers to set aside land _____ for a period of 10 to 12 years. This set aside program helps to keep soil in place, reduce nutrient run off, _____ and create beneficial wildlife and pollinate our habitats. As quoted from the FSA Administrator, _____, CRP is a powerful tool for implementing _____ measurable conservation outcomes to mitigate the impact of climate change. We have 12 million acres currently enrolled in the program prevent the equivalent of more than 12 million tons of carbon dioxide from entering the _____. In 1998, Highland County had 22,973 acres in this very set aside program and now in 2021 it is at its lowest level of only 11,455 acres. Meaning farmers are not going to enroll their land in conservation practices because they can't afford to. At a time, when we need no till and _____ more than ever solar farming gives a much more sustainable and viable financial option to the farmer than the government CPR program and it serves the same purpose and offers so many more benefits with a much higher payout to the farmer to benefit the conservation and energy production. Solar Farms are a form of CRP. Instead of a 15-year program the energy producing period set aside is 30 plus years. We can welcome back the earthworms, the butterflies, the honeybees, birds, snakes, and insects that we have run off from the use of pesticides and toxic chemical _____ and the solar companies will pay us and our county and actually save taxpayer dollars instead of the government funded CRP. There are 6 proposed utility scale solar farms for Highland County. Willowbrook, Highland New Market, Dodson Creek, Yellow Wood and Palomino. An estimated total of 13,000 acres. It stands to reason that if Highland County had almost 23,000 acres set aside in 1998 and our current system is only 11,455 and farmers need a greater income then the estimated 13,000 acres for proposed for energy use is quite doable. It would only be approximately 4% of our county farmland acreage and more than that amount of acres was previously in set aside. When the Federal Government extended the CRP enrollment deadline this year they needed more enrollment. That then proves solar opposition is just wrong when they say we are using prime farmland, they're just wrong. Highland County became the first conservation district in Ohio on April 18, 1942. We initiated what is now known as the Soil and Water Conservation District _____. Our predecessors passed conservation in our county so we _____ what we now have. _____ conservation effort with clean energy and financial support to our county. Highland County farms have signed their farms into solar agreements because they are _____ the entire county versus just themselves and preserve the integrity of their land at the same time. I urge you to support solar in Highland County. I believe the landowner knows his land and its usage for it better than anyone else. Please allow us to do our jobs and move forward as stewards of our land in a conservation effort that simply looks different. Solar farming will enable us to produce energy, and practice conservation, and get aid from someone other than the Federal Government assistance program. Lastly, I want to thank you for your service as commissioners. In 2020, in Highland County the average median household income was \$43,297. With this risk of low income please help us solar landowners provide much needed property tax revenue to support our entire county and community well-being. None of us can do this alone but if we work together we can make Highland County the best county to live in the State

of Ohio. And one last comment, I am a graphic designer, and I made the brochures that were distributed at the County Fair. Thank you.

David Mayer: Good evening, previously, I submitted my statements to the Public Utility Siting Board regarding _____ Lynchburg and I forwarded a copy to all the Commissioners. I am not going to go into great detail other than to emphasize when the stone quarry opened up the _____ huge cost to get water. There is a huge risk in this occurring again because the lease said unlimited. When I wrote that, I was looking at a draft lease, so I said let's get a real-life example. So, I took the lease was recorded last year by your County Auditor, Bill Fawley which says unlimited so it's in writing and it's recorded. Now, I am talking water rights. Will those neighbors be compensated if they lose their water? I have no issue with Mr. Fawley and that is I have not seen anywhere where someone has said, here we are today with all of our taxes, property, real estate transfer tax, sales tax, fuel tax, vehicle tax. All these taxes, what happens when you move it down the road? What is the difference? Let's assume there is a net increase which is the position that you have taken, and the developers have taken. Well, there is risk if those increases don't materialize. I spent over 30 years in the financial world as a CPA, controller, treasury analysis, money management, Auditor, but there were numbers attached to what I did, and my budgets always came in on time. Your budgets are peanuts compared to the stuff that I used to work on, so I believe I am an expert in this area. So, if Mr. Fawley, has signed a lease and has skin in the game, I am asking you after reading the Ohio Revised Code, does he not have a conflict of interest? How can he represent to you when he has got skin in the game? How can he justify giving you numbers and justify that they are correct? This is an ethical issue and what I have discovered since I moved back in December, there is a lot of ethical and moral issues in this county. Things I didn't know about until I got involved with organizations. The Paint Creek Fire District doesn't even have their audit done yet. They refuse to provide me a list of the officers and directors so I can contact them. I still am waiting for the audit. Now, the pro solar people have a Facebook page about 146 members. We have about 1200. So, I took a look at their members. A lot of these people don't even live in Ohio. One gentleman who is in Africa, these are Sierra Club activist and environmentalist. I don't want people from outside Highland County telling us how to run our businesses here. Same with the foreign companies, same with the big tech companies who fought vigorously against SB 52. 65 lobbying firms, they fought to stop that because they are going to off load to get the energy and the offsets but here is the problem with carbon offsets. You trade these so this guy over here can pollute, and this guy over here sells the credits, so he doesn't pollute. There is no net reduction in carbon dioxide. It's a hoax. I lived in California _____. I can assure you every policy they put in place regarding green energy _____ drove the cost up. Not to mention the fact that we don't even get the energy here, it's going to Cincinnati, and they don't want it in their backyard. The jobs argument. It's been said early on a guarantee of jobs, are they going to have a few guys wash the panels and mowing the grass, I don't like that. Recently, you were presented with a protest group of people at a meeting over the Ohio Scenic River Designation. Normally, being an outdoors person and somewhat of a conservationist I thought that sounds good until I talked to one of those people and I got the low down. If a tree falls on their fence in the Arc of Appalachia, they are prohibited from going over and cutting the tree down so now their cows run through. So, the ODNR, one they provided money and _____, the county commissioners have also applied for grants and provided money to this Arc of Appalachia, which I love to go on the trails. If you go down there, there is a rule on one of them no picnic. So, I walk in with my sandwich, pulling off my backpack and eat it, I'm breaking the law. I can't go to Rocky Fork Creek, jump in and splash my feet. I can't even take my dog down there. Now, was that all in the plans when you first approved all this nonsense, I doubt it was. I am sure there were dogs on those farms then and not to mention now, they don't mow the fields. They have toxic and noxious weeds growing in there and that drifts into the other farmers trying to grow hay. You need to represent the people and not the big tech companies. You need to take a real hard look at

this. When climate change was a big issue 10 to 15 years ago the GOP fought it. They fought it hard. Now the GOP caved in. You're all GOP. What changed? The money. The greed, the money and the power changed everything. Social new life democrats, you've just joined in. You've joined Alexandria _____ Carez who yesterday wore dresses that say tax the rich. Well, that is going to be funny for some of these people who are going to make more than \$400,000 because now they're going to be taxed. I find that hilarious. So, you've got to look at the politics. People told me to stay out of the politics. _____ . What was happening on this farmland for the last 100 years. Did it just sit there? Was there not something done or being split out? Were there some types of crops out there? My family settled here in 1840's, down around Belfast and Berrysville. My mother's family settled in the Maysville area, they are fighting the same thing, 5000 acres of land in solar. So, if I leave this homeland and I have to go down there and fight the same battle again. I am against it. I just don't want to see it. I am all for solar if you don't put it on your property but this solar program here is wrong. It is divisive and it is not going to be beneficial in the long run. Thank you very much.

Patrick Shanahan, *voice transcription difficult because of quality* I live at 130 Monroe Street, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133. My voice is going to shake real bad for the first 30 seconds, so just roll with me. I have lived in Highland County since I was 5 years old, and I am here tonight to offer my thoughts on solar farms. I am generally for _____ but I am very sympathetic to the concerns the people have. I just wanted to point out tonight though the basic threat to agriculture and our agricultural way of life is not the solar people. It is climate change. I understand the commissioners have to consider every angle when making decisions, but I encourage you all to, when faced with the decision regarding solar farms please give due consideration to the threat of climate change. _____ on climate change released a report _____ 2018 the details _____ among them are increased frequency and intensity of droughts, heatwaves, wildfires and intense storm threats. One of the primary effects of climate change that we are going to see here in the Midwest are more frequent and more intense steady rainfall events. These have rain fall events will be disastrous to farms. In some cases, the rain is heavy enough to wash freshly planted seeds straight out of the field. If you remember about 2.5 years ago, I believe it was the spring of 2018 it was an abnormally wet spring. It was a really scary time for farmers in this area because for many of them their fields were flooded and they couldn't get into their fields to plant _____ backs against the way and were having to choose between even the loss and taking the crop insurance payment or trying to delay planting and _____. So we are already seeing the impacts on our county. We are already seeing _____ agriculture which is bad news for a county whose number one industry is farming. I think the solar fields present an opportunity for Highland County to make itself part of the solution. I think _____ our county alone, we can be part of the energy solution and help _____ these affects. I am not saying that we should give these companies a blank check to come in and do whatever they want. We should so closely scrutinize them and we should hold them accountable. But I believe that this all or nothing approach that some people are trying to take is totally shortsighted. If we have this opportunity to make ourselves a part of the solution. If we are an ideal site for building solar farms and if we have this opportunity _____ in terms of climate change _____, I believe we wholeheartedly should embrace that. Again, I am not trying to dismiss anybody's concerns. If people are worried about their property values that needs to be accounted for. If people are worried about being able to return that land to agricultural use later down the road that should also be accounted for. All I am asking is you the commissioners that if you are faced with the decision regarding solar zoning for solar farms please consider the threat of climate change _____. It's our number one industry, which is agriculture. So, I just want to close with saying, I am coming from a place of care and a place of love for my hometown. I grew up in Hillsboro. We are an overwhelmingly low-income community. We are very dependent on agriculture. Those two things make our community extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and it breaks my

heart to think that if we don't do something about this quickly, it breaks my heart to think about all the suffering that it is going to inflict on my hometown and it hurts _____. Thank you.

Richard Pride: Good evening. Thank you for your time. My name is Richard Pride. My address is 2165 Tedrick Road, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133. I am in the Dodson Creek Industrial Solar. I know you're probably tired of hearing this by now. The sad thing, your minds are more than likely already made up and you've probably already signed on the dotted lines already. How disheartening it is for me to hear about the solar farms. I'm against it. I am a Brown County boy who got married to a pretty city gal and we got real tired of city ways. We voted for Cranley in Cincinnati. He seemed like lesser of the two evils. Ran on a platform of being fiscally responsible and he was against the streetcar. Once he got his votes and his pockets were lined and turned out to be a man of no guts and little character. We got tired of the approaching big city rules and big city lies. All you have to do is google the city council and the FBI arrest on Cranley's council you will see all the corruption that is involved there. We had a son and we wanted to move out to the country back where I grew up so we could raise our son like I was raised. My father's health was failing. I also wanted to be closer to my mother and father to help out. We looked in Brown County but found our dream home right here in Highland County. A historic place, full of charm, surrounded by farmland, surrounded by good people. I have a lot of relatives in Hillsboro, already knew the area. I also took some classes right here in this very building at Southern State. Over the last few years, driving over to mom and dad's and we took different short cuts and no matter which way we seemed to go you were bound to run into solar panel for miles, a dismal, depressing, industrial prison as it looks driving by them on the way. I had some of those beautiful homes out there pictured in my mind surrounded by acres and acres of solar panels. But admittedly, I thought, well that won't happen here. We are safe in the better minds of Highland County. Well, I guess Cranley caught up to us. It appears I will be looking at my window at solar panels for miles too. It seems like the solar panels are for the city of Cincinnati are coming to our roads as well. I am not sure why Hamilton County and crooked Canley can't stay in Hamilton County. You know I don't understand why they can't put the solar panels on some of the high rises. They are doing away with the Zimmer Plant, why don't they convert the acreage there for their own solar panels instead of having them come out here? First, it sounds like a good thing until you realize it's not really saving the environment at all, and it isn't a better solution. All it's doing is lining some pockets. Lord knows those pockets aren't mind. We just spent over \$50,000 on improvements to have our home historically restored. And now look at the property value. I am worried that is going to tank. You know, there goes our investment. I am worried about the impact on the environment poisoning in the farmlands and the water tables. Where are all the animals going to go? You cut down all the land, all the trees. I learned a lot from my grandfather and father on the farm. Many important lessons in life. They taught me the value of hard work. My grandfather taught me that whatever I do in life, whatever I work at, I am signing my name to it. That says Richard Pride on it. You want to do a good job, so others know it's of good quality. What you do says who you are, and it speaks for your character. We all have a legacy that says what we stood for and what we left for your children and grandchildren. I want to leave this world better than I found it. To hand off something as special as I grew up to my children and my grandchildren. I ask you; will you please stand up for your constituents? Take a stand with me. Will you be like Canley of low character, or will you stand and fight with me for a better future for us all? Will you be someone proud to sign your name for something bigger than just a quick paycheck? Ladies and gentlemen, I hope it's not too late. I thank you for your time. I thank you for your consideration tonight.

John Moore: My name is John Moore, I live at 9925 Mad River Road, New Vienna, Ohio 45159. I recently moved back to the area from Southern North Carolina. I know the firsthand effects of solar panels. All this talk about the pollution and all this stuff, it's a hoax. There are thousands and thousands

of acres in Southern North Carolina and Northern South Carolina. Duke Energy is shutting down their coal fired generators down there as well. The only problem is they haul all their coal ash to a place south of Lake Norman which is just North of Charlotte. The EPA fined them billions of dollars to clean it up. They just passed that cost right back down to the consumer. So, us people, me back then, Duke Energy, my electric bill went up because they are trying to hide their pollutions. The last gentleman was talking about shutting down the Zimmer Plant. They don't know how much coal ash they are going to have to clean up there. So, they can't put solar panels over the top of a polluted area right away and the people in the New Richmond area are seriously complaining what in the world are we going to do with the millions of dollars of revenue that the Zimmer Plant provided us now. I have been to the New Richmond School. There isn't a school in this county compared to that. It is beautiful. So, what are they going to do now? Are they going to raise the taxes on the people in that area to cover the cost? I don't know but I know the advantages of solar panels is they are shutting down this coal fired plants continuously. That energy has got to come from somewhere. This stuff that they are going to send it to Cincinnati. Your electric comes from Cincinnati anyway from them Zimmer plants and _____. It costs more money to transport that electric from this area to there and back so why not just keep it here and they're smart enough to know that. They are going to turn it over to the grid and the people that is using this grid, in this area is going to get it first. Anything left over, yeah it can go on out the grid, we done got all we needed. So, I don't understand this. It's not going to Cincinnati and then being transferred back to here to provide people with electric, that is why they are giving it to these rural areas who are buying the electric to the people of this community. Like I said, anything left over that's fine and dandy, it can go on but we are going to provide the electric to this area first because I definitely don't want to go without electricity and like I said, we have got to come up with something to replace those coal fired generators and they have already said on the news over and over and over, the reason the Zimmer Plant shut down is because they cannot be cost effective. They cannot compete with the solar people. Solar is way cheaper to produce the same kilowatt as your coal fired generator.

Christina Pride. Hello, my name is Christina price. I live at 2165 Tedrick Road, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133. I respect that I am not a farmer. I am also new to this subject, and I just found out about the solar farms coming to Highland County just a few days before my son started Kindergarten but since I do have a voice I did want to appear tonight. I've never been comfortable with any type of public speaking. I found it painful as a child growing up so please know this is not easy for me to stand here and do this at all, but I felt strongly that I should come tonight and just stand up and at least give you my story. I have lived my entire life in the State of Ohio. I grew up new the city of Cincinnati, in the Village of Fairfax in what we called the Little Mayberry where I grew up. When I was still single in my 20's I bought my first home in the Incline District of East Price Hill because I fell in love with the house, and I enjoyed living near the excitement of downtown. When my husband and I married, he did not want to live in the city. He grew up in the country in Georgetown, but he relented to stay there to keep a happy wife. I even told him good luck in getting me to ever leave my beautiful historic home I loved it so much. We ended up getting married in our tiny backyard. It wasn't until our son was born that my mind was changed. My baby was just a few weeks old when I held him in my arms, I looked over at my husband with tears in my eyes and I said okay I'm ready to let go and move to the country now. Our house hunting journey led us to Highland County and by God's Grace we found the perfect home for us, a historic brick farmhouse on 10 acres. It was built in 1833. The original deed to our new home was signed by President John Quincy Adams. _____ the land our home sits on _____ family of a fallen revolutionary war soldier. The prehistoric brick house we now call home and the land which surrounded it actually inspired a double album that was written and performed by some local musicians here. A husband-and-wife duo with an international following. They even wrote a song called Highland County, they were so enchanted by the landscape and the backroads of this part of rural Ohio. Several years prior my

husband and I even attended an outdoor concert by this band that would one day become our own backyard. We never realized in our wildest dream we would one day live at that exact spot to raise our family. I say all this to you because I left behind my beloved home in Cincinnati. I moved an hour away from all my friends and family and left the convenience of being 5 minutes from my job, close to entertainment, shopping left it all behind so I could move out to where I felt could find some peace, some quiet, some tranquility in the country and escape the madness of the city and have a safe place to raise our son. And like I said, I just found out about the solar farms just weeks ago. I have done a little research since then and like I said I can respect I am not a farmer and that doesn't affect me in that way, but I am discovering in my research the low efficiency of solar farms. The last time I checked we live in Ohio. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to know we don't live in the Sunshine State. The negative impact on the environment alone is enough to make your head spin. The highly hazardous materials used in the production process. The extremely toxic metals and the waste. The unsustainable mining practices, the habitat loss and derogation, dangerous electromagnetic radiation, and not to mention the loss in property values for hardworking homeowners. I cannot begin to tell you how disheartening, and angry and pissed off I am to find that the place that I was so happy to find and call my new home is now being turned into a faux oasis of green energy and it all seems to be in the name of greed and profit and the lust for money. It sickens me and I fear for my child's future and for the future of all Highland county's children. What hurts me the most is I stand here in front of you all and speak and I feel like my words are just falling on deaf ears for all of those that support these solar monstrosities and I also feel like I am preaching to the choir for all of those like myself that oppose it. As a homeowner, I feel helpless. Driving miles around our home all we see are no industrial solar signs along every back road and every side road. Tell me why these projects are impacting the people that feel they have no say and no vote in the matter? Shame on those who may have pushed these projects through the back door to make an easy, sleazy buck. I don't know how you can sleep at night because ever since I found out about these solar farms I cannot rest. And shame on me for falsely thinking that those who live and work in rural communities would be any less easily bought or corrupt than those that live in the city, that's my fault. I wanted better for myself and for my family and for my son and that's why I chose Highland County for my son to reside in. _____ sacred ground but now I am starting to second guess my decision to move my life and my family here. I am just one person, one opinion but I know I am standing here tonight with so many who don't want this in our area and near our homes. I implore you to reconsider what's about to be done in Highland County. It not only affects us in the here and now but these decisions being made are shaping the landscape for future generations. I do thank you for your time and attention and I pray my words will some way someway _____ on your conscience.

Frank Grosvenor: Hello, I am Frank Grosvenor. I live at 11018 Noble Road, New Vienna, Ohio 45159 in Union Township. _____ Gentlemen I don't think your crooks or have signed away our birth rights and I don't think you're corrupt. I am ashamed for people who say you are and that's true. I have bought and sold 81 different properties from sacred 73 _____ mansion to Wal-Mart on out _____. From those 81 properties, 77 of them are in woods where people want to be surrounded by 30-foot trees. They are perfectly happy. The corn in this county gets about 10 foot tall and its nearly as surrounding as solar panels and we've done that for years. My people got their land from the King of England. They fought in the Revolutionary War. They were given land in Ohio Western Reserve in our county and then moved to Highland County when my father got done after 32 years of being a molder. I had 40 years in factories, 25 years I was a union steward in a factory I worked for 25 years. I worked 15 years at Airborne. In that time, when I was a union steward I negotiated the dismantling of both those plants. We got pensions. We got a hardy severance pay but that's not the way anymore. The American Dream has eroded, and I am sorry for that but also something we should realize we do not live in a complete democracy. We live in a representative Republic where we elect the best man to vote for us

and I trust that's what we have done. Most of the people on both sides _____ ate my lunch already in the things I've said about the thing about the environment and I am going to read my prepared statement.

My name is Frank Grosvenor and I live on a farm in Union Township for 70 years. I have a small farm in the Palomino project. My son, and his wife and my two grandsons live there. They will be surrounded on 3 sides with the project. One of them is a nurse at Cape May. One of them is a naturalist in the Greene County Park Systems and she is keeping an eye on that bald eagle, trust me. I see a solar project as a chance to provide and expand the source and power for our area. Solar provides revenue for farmers, landowners, schools, first responders, our libraries which I love and the community. 30-35 years of profitable energy in this county is a God sent. Are we going to deny progress, education, and the climate? Ohio has got 3 inches more rainfall for the last 10 years. Our southwest and coastal states have record droughts and forest fires. Iowa has had its second Derecho. There crops got flattened. A Derecho is a hurricane on the land. The gulf coast states on the average have 3 inland invasions by water _____ hurricanes. They have had 19 this year. One of which went from Louisiana and went all the way up to New York and New Jersey and killed 40 people. Our environment is collapsing whether we will admit it or not making temperatures rise, causing violent storms, drought and economic _____. Solar is clean and simple. Coal, gas and oil omit CO2 emissions and kill the atmosphere. Nuclear plants can melt down as we have seen with Chernobyl and _____ Kagoshima in Japan. Terrorist can blow up a solar plant. But if you blow up a solar plant it isn't going to melt down on us or spread nuclear waste over half the countryside like in Russia. They still haven't got it cleaned up and that reactor is still hot. Our country has 130 trillion dollars in unserviceable debt. If you don't know what a trillion is, it's that one with 12 zeroes behind it. That is money we can't afford to pay, and we borrowed the money from our buddy China just like we farmers sell 3 out every grain and corn in this county and 3 out of every grain of soybean to China. We are in debt. We need to have clean, serviceable energy. These projects really work. I will end this with an old limerick by _____ to smash the simple atom was all the man's intent and _____ the simple atom may return _____.

Peggy Hawk:

Hello, my name is Peggy Hawk and I reside at 8721 Rammel Road, Lynchburg, Ohio and I live by the Palomino project. I understand that have 5 minutes, is that correct? I would like to invite Karen Faust up. I have asked Karen to continue her speech and use my 5 minutes because Karen's words are my words.

Mrs. Faust finished her speech which is transcribed above in its entirety.

My name is Ryan Markey I live at 1109 Turner Road, Dodson Township, Highland County, Ohio

I am testifying in support of solar projects in Highland County. Despite a notion that solar farms are going to affect people's property values. Sources here: A study put out by the American Society of Farm Mangers and Rural appraisers, University of Rhode Island did a study on 400,000 transactions in New England over 50 years and found that were ___ urban areas but there was no impact on property values in rural areas. Patricia _____ evaluation practice sites 1000 acre North Star _____ Minnesota where county assessors found no adverse effects on nearby properties over time. Donald Fisher, _____ VP of CMY appraisers. Market studies found _____ positive impacts on residential values also impacts _____ additional monies are spent on infrastructures. Howard _____ President and CEO _____ states solar leases to be more stable supporting

higher rents and land values less susceptible to ag trends. Rich Kirkland, Kirkland appraisals, Raleigh, North Carolina study impacts 19 states using match _____ houses based on square footage and found there was no more than a negative or positive 5% difference in sales prices which is not _____ difference. He also found that as long as panels are kept at least 100 feet away from joint properties and proper screening was used that there were no adverse impacts to joint owners. The object 10 feet tall at 100 feet; if you hold a ruler at arm's length, if you look at that, it's just 4.8 inches tall. The industry standard for setbacks from residential areas is 300 to 500 feet. So, there are things that need to be considered that adjacent landowners do not have the concern about land use change _____ such land is stable for the next 30 years. Solar farms are not permanent, and they are also offsetting future taxes that might _____ have to pay in the future.

Donald Leeth: My name is Donald Leeth, I live at 11460 SR 453 S, Greenfield, Ohio. I have worked in the solar industry for 30 years. I am a member of the IPW Local 575. I have a great retirement and I make 100,000 dollars a year. _____. I am working on the one here in New Market and there is no radiation. These are glass. They put steel beams in the ground, and they just pull them right back out, it's not hard. There is nothing to these things. I have never been radiated. I have worked in nuclear plants – that is bad. I have worked in the coal burners. I have actually went in and decommissioned four coal burners. Two on the Ohio River, one in Cincinnati, one in Ashtabula. They are going away. These big, large corporations like AEP. They are not going to pay 3000 people to run a coal burning plant. This is not going to happen. They are looking to get profit. That's what they are about. They are going to put solar fields in. They are making profit for these corporations and I make a lot of money on these things, and I have never been ill from a solar field. And I have worked on thousands of them. That is basically all I have to say. There is nothing ill about these things. I have worked on them for 30 years. There is nothing going to hurt you, but I would like the commissioners to maybe get with ODNR and when the 1978 and '79 blizzard hit, it destroyed our pheasant and quail. I would like to see, when they fence this in, if they could put pheasants and quails, breeding pairs back in them, to get that population back because I actually enjoyed that as a child. Coyotes and house cats are terrible on these _____. It would be greatly appreciated to do something positive like that. If anybody knows anybody who needs a job tell them to come and see me I can make them a good bit of money.

Desirae Maxwell:

My name is Desirae Maxwell and I live at 10736 Horseshoe Road in Lynchburg, 45142. I am not going to come up here with stats and tell you guys _____ I expect you guys to do this. I expect so much. You guys are doing your jobs. You guys are stuck in between people that don't like this and stuck with people that love society and but there are benefits to this. Benefits for our schools. Benefits to everybody. I understand the cons and the pros. It is your guy's jobs to overlook those for us. There is nothing wrong to step back, look, hey which ones outweighs it. Which one is going to cause more issues? I am for these solar panels due to the fact that my grandfather, Wayne Mitchell, he has been in Highland County for 60 years. We are doing 70 acres. That is one of I say the last couple of years. We have had flooding. I mean it doesn't always go as planned. You have animals that get into the plants. You have pesticides, everything. This is steel. This is glass. This is also giving more jobs for our community. So, I don't understand why not leaning more towards approving these solar fields. Why not help the community when these negativities, like I said, I have four children. I live on 2 acres. I will be surrounded by them. Is it going to affect the scenery, maybe but the animals will get used to them? The humans will get used to them. Its just like having a neighbor buy a property next to you, put a house in, you see them out running around, doing whatever, you don't like it. You know what you're on your property, that's their property. Its our properties. Let us do what we want. Thank you.

Mike Lutmer: Good evening, my name is Mike Lutmer. I live at 4120 Sharpsville Road. I have farmed all my life and I am with the pro solar. It took a long time for me to enter into this agreement. It took almost a year. I did my due diligence on the pros and the cons, the environmental impacts. What it would do for my family not in the immediate time frame but for my family down the road and also the community. I cannot really find any bad thing about it. I feel like I am a good steward of the land. I talk well. I have an agricultural degree from OSU, and I think its just good business for the solar fields for Highland County and everyone involved. Thank you.

Mark Crowe: *voice transcription difficult because of quality* My name is Mark Crowe. I live in Highland County. I work in Highland County. _____ I am the father of four children, 8 grandchildren and one 4-year-old foster child we saved from a drug home. Praise the Lord. I am also a recovering basketball coach, some would say. I am also the CEO of Crowe Financial with an office in downtown Hillsboro. Owner of Crowe Farms and I am in support of solar projects. I am not affiliated with the Palomino but I am in support of solar projects as a whole that's what I am talking about tonight. The big picture. The fight to stop innovation and progress has been going on since the beginning of time. Like the blacksmiths that didn't like the auto industry, it's the same type of thing. If Elon Musk would had listened to the accountants and _____ there would be no Tesla and no _____. In the financial industry, when I find out the accountants have taken over _____. You can't stop innovation. It will go somewhere else. Today we are talking about solar panels. A few months back AEP came and wanted to put power lines to my farm down South 62 by the way. None of the farmers wanted them. _____ Great big tall metal poles, ugly as all get out. Nobody wanted them. _____ progress to better the community. We all signed the deal to put the electric poles. The people that live down the street who just built a home, have power to their home. The reason those tall poles are there is because the lines in California's are so low, they are causing fires. So, the neighbors house won't catch on fire. I still don't want the electric poles on my farm, that's just how it works. Innovation always _____ why do we need solar panels? Ultimately, we don't need solar panels, but we do need something to stimulate the economy in rural America. This just happens to be the right thing at the right place at the right time. This won't just benefit the farmers. It won't just benefit the companies. Really this is not about the companies. This is about rural America and rural Ohio. This is an opportunity of a lifetime for these schools. _____ It is a complete and total game changer. In my business, in the financial business we are always looking for people money. When I find somebody that has millions, not in buildings, farms or anything else; I research the history of how did they got there. They were in the right place at the right time once and they took advantage of it. Solar opportunity is a gamechanger for the rural communities of Ohio and for the schools. It does not just benefit the schools. So, here is the front page of the Highland County Times Gazette on September 2nd. Bright Local School District purchased 17 acres by the high school and plan to build State of the Art track and field facilities. I don't see Cranley's name on it. _____ Whiteoak High School, not that long ago, they were having to close down and distribute kids all over to surrounding schools. That school has come to me for years needing money for scoreboards, basketball floors, re-new the floors and we gave them money, but we couldn't come up with enough money for a State of the Art track and soccer fields. Children are benefiting in a huge way from the solar projects. Now, yes do you want it in your back yard? Probably most of us don't. I didn't want the gravel pit down from my house either. Guess where I go to get my gravel. That's just the way it is. That's the way the world works. So, we had the gravel pit and I put up two hog barns down there. When I put up the hog brans the neighbors weren't happy. Bill Fawley's happy when he gets that tax check _____ around the corner is a gentleman who _____ little, small unit, side unit. _____ although he knew that this _____ So, let's not let this opportunity pass us by. Let's empower these rural communities. With everything that is going on in this world, what

better thing could we do but empower rural communities and rural schools to take create more car rural children and educate them the right way. It is a big move, huge move. So, what's the moral of the story? Here's the moral of the story: I am not making light of people that don't want solar fields. This is from a business perspective. So, the blacksmiths ran the auto industry out of tombstone. The auto industry moved to Dodge. Dodge boomed. Everybody in Dodge moved except for the blacksmiths. The blacksmith in Tombstone ____ So the blacksmith in Tombstone moved to Dodge, opened up a bar and retired happily ever after.