Send to

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Subject: Cepheus Solar Case No. 21-293-EL-BGN Public Comment

I am writing to express my opposition to Cepheus Solar project’s application with the Ohio Power Siting Board.

**[Insert in your own words for opposing the project here. It is better that it is heartfelt and your own beliefs. However, below are a few things you can mention]**

1. Although not against the responsible use of solar generation this proposed development is stripping away local rights of a large amount of citizens and has a high likelihood of negatively impacting health/safety/property values of those hundreds living close by, disturbing the habitats of endangered and/or protected species of wildlife in Northwest Ohio, also impacting the habitats of local deer, wild turkey, fox, coyote, etc., and presents an increased threat to existing localized flooding issues.

2. Although only protecting a few local landowners/farmers’ property rights,( 3 of the 4 landowners will not even live near the project) and providing them abundant monetary compensation; this development will have a dire effect on Defiance County residents' property rights, value, health and safety. These residents have no voice. Any other industrial project or building which would change farmland would require rezoning which is done at the township level. Why are solar projects decisions being made at the state level?

3. Providing clean cost effective energy for Ohio should be a goal, however the massive footprint of solar and wind must be studied further and there is indeed no rush to complete these projects as energy has been provided for 100s of years with resources that are clean, safe, and have a lesser footprint. If it is good for the community today won’t it be good for the community in one year. Solar should be further evaluated for its siting not on green farmlands, but brownlands, rooftops, existing vacant industrial areas.

4. Sherwood has recently experienced residential growth with the first new housing addition being built which hasn’t happened in over 50 years. Plus we have added several new businesses on the north side of town. While strengthening the local economy with increased annual revenue and providing funds for Central Local schools may sound very good up front, but what are the dire effects down the road when no business or residents will want to move to Sherwood and Delaware Township as there will not be any land left to attract said future residents; how does attracting business to our area happen when 700 acres to the north and east of the village are already occupied by solar panels. What family is going to look on a google map and see acres and acres of solar panels and want to move to Delaware Township?

5. This does NOT create local jobs - possibly the 150 transient workers for 7 months (who only need to provide a water bill to prove they are "Ohio domiciled"), (and that is not even required until after construction is over;) who work long shifts, and go home on the weekends and **do not** stimulate the local economy as suggested Moreover, 7x has no control over who is hired to do the work as their subcontract this work. Only 1-2 people are permanent for the lifetime of the project. This is not stimulating the economy or creating jobs.

6. 7x Energy has been nowhere transparent and has provided falsehoods and false commitments to listening and working with community members. And although their certificate might seem fancy and 1,000s of pages long - there are many shortcomings in their studies, on water, sound, fencing, ecological protections, setbacks, the list goes on. The developer, 7x energy has a suspect record and history and is hoping to profit tremendously from this project and then walk away, while our local schools and governments receive disproportionate revenue as the years progress. There are no guarantees (except that this company and 4 landowners stand to make a lot of money.) This company has been in business 5 years, and has sold 3 of the 4 projects they started before they were even completed.

7. The ecological and environmental impact is widely unknown - and the effect on the flora, fauna, bats, birds especially the growing population of Eagles (a pair who have been sighted next to the proposed project) who prey in those existing fields that will now be covered in glass is highly suspect.

8. The water and soil conservation of the area should be widely considered as a PRIORITY!

Runoff from these fields will carry nutrients into the Maumee River and Great Lakes impacting the quality of water, increasing algae blooms plus eroding the land.

Additionally, solar panels contain lead and other metals which have been detected in rainwater runoff from solar panels. Lead exposure is extremely harmful to children and residents drink well water.

9. Typically, industrial solar complexes such as this company is proposing do not directly surround villages. If constructed, our community will be bound on our northern limits by solar panels on both sides of ST Rt 127, to the east by solar panels on both sides of ST Rt 18 and two miles to the west by another 1000 acres solar project.

There are other areas to put these projects but they are being proposed here because it is much cheaper due to the location of the substations which have capacity for transmission.

Studies have shown that property values will decrease (5%-20%) which could potentially kill the community we have worked diligently to have.

I respectfully ask for your thorough study and a thorough appreciation of all of the aforementioned. Your committees' rejection of a project near this community should be your only decision.

[Sign your note at the bottom, and make sure to mention which county you live in.]