

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application)	
of Eastern Cottontail Solar LLC for a)	Case No. 24-0495-EL-BGN
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility)	
and Public Need)	

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF BETSY ALT

Q-1. Please state your name, home address, and occupation.

A-1. My name is Betsy Alt, and I live at 10615 Lancaster-Kirkersville Road, Baltimore, Ohio in Liberty Township. I am 69 years old and am retired.

Q-2. Please describe your connection to the Eastern Cottontail Solar Project.

A-2. My husband Dan and I are property owners who have leased our 78-acre property to EDF for the Eastern Cottontail Solar project. Our property is described as Parcel ID 0470213400, Canal Road NE, Walnut Township, Fairfield County, Ohio.

Q-3. Can you describe your family's connections to the area?

A-3. We have been farmers since 1977. My husband grew up on the farm where we currently live. Our son farms, too, and in the last year our oldest grandson has joined the business. We raise corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, straw, beef cattle and a few hogs and sheep. Our grandson is the eighth generation with hopes of farming in Ohio.

Our family is community-minded and involved. My husband served as Fiscal Officer for our township for 28 years and I served two terms as township Trustee. Together and separately, we have served on many boards including the County Fair Board, Health Board, Fire Board, Fairfield County Regional Planning and our local zoning boards. I personally have been a soccer coach, Cub Scout leader, Bible school teacher, officer for the Liberty Township Community Chest, docent for Fairfield County Heritage Association house tours and a receptionist at the Sherman House Museum. I also worked for 17 years as an educational aide for children with disabilities. Our farm has grown

1 from 250 acres to over 3,000 acres, mostly leased. Why have we done all of this? This
2 County is our home, and we love it and the people that live here. We want to see Fairfield
3 County grow and prosper.

4
5 **Q-4. Can you describe your decision to participate in the project?**

6 **A-4.** We purchased the leased parcel (78.084 acres) in 2005. The price was reasonable due to a
7 developer selling off road frontage for building lots. We were pleased to find affordable
8 land so close to ours. The fact that it had less than 300 feet of road frontage restricted its
9 use. We hoped it would prove profitable under our management and pay for itself with
10 crops. It has.

11
12 Taking land out of farming may seem counter-intuitive. But the chance to have a steady
13 and guaranteed income for thirty (and possibly more) years is a dream come true. We
14 have four grandchildren who all seem destined for either the farm or a career based in
15 agriculture. We would be delighted to help make their dreams come true.

16
17 Our land will lay fallow, slowly healing itself from the hard work farming demands of it.
18 We will retain ownership over the land, with the ability to choose its next life. Through
19 all of this, tax dollars will flow into our community, electricity to our homes and
20 businesses and money into our bank accounts to allow us to retire comfortably.

21
22 My introduction to solar power began early. My father was in the oil and gas business
23 and had been a pilot in World War II. He brought home a magazine article about a plane

1 that was being powered by nothing but the sun. This was in the early 1960s. He was
2 adamant that solar power was the future. Oil and gas were a finite resource, and we
3 needed exploration into other means of power. Not only was he right but he made me
4 curious enough to read and learn about advances in solar power my entire life.

5
6 **Q-5. Do you have any reservations about the project?**

7 **A-5.** No. I do not. We researched Geenex and EDF to the best of our abilities and did not find
8 any cause for concern. We were invited to tour the Fox Squirrel facility in Madison
9 County. We declined and chose instead to look at a facility in Ross and Pickaway
10 Counties known as Yellowbud Solar. What we saw at Yellowbud impressed us. The
11 weather conditions had been very difficult for construction, but they had completed the
12 project, and they were just going online at the time of our visit.

13
14 **Q-6. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

15 **A-6.** I am testifying in support of the Eastern Cottontail Solar Project.

16
17 **Q-7. Do you have any other comments?**

18 **A-7.** We believe solar energy is a sensible and needed source for Ohio. We have tried hard to
19 look at the bigger and broader picture of Ohio's future. We feel that growth is headed our
20 way, and we can either be part of it or be run over by it.

1 To respond to those who are seeking to block this project, I would like to emphasize that
2 farming is a business, and we do not exist to provide scenery. We are hardworking people
3 trying to provide for ourselves, our son, our grandchildren and our community.

4
5 **Q-8. Does this conclude your testimony?**

6 **A-8.** Yes, but I reserve the right to update this testimony to respond to any further testimony in
7 this case.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that The Ohio Power Siting Board's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document on the parties referenced on the service list of the docket card who have electronically subscribed to the case on this 21st day of February, 2025.

/s/ Trent Dougherty

Trent Dougherty