

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of	)	
Crossroads Solar I, LLC, for a Certificate of	)	Case No. 25-0142-EL-BGN
Environmental Compatibility and Public	)	
Need	)	

**CHUCK RAWLINS, PAUL ETGEN, CAROL HOLTREY, AND DONALD HOLTREY
PETITION FOR LEAVE TO INTERVENE**

Chuck Rawlins, Paul Etgen, Carol Holtrey, and Donald Holtrey (the “Petitioners”) respectfully submit this petition to intervene in the above-captioned proceeding as participating landowners in the Crossroads Solar Project (the “Project”).

Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-2-12, the Ohio Power Siting Board (“Board”) should grant the Petition because each landowner has a real and substantial interest in the outcome of this case that is distinct from those of the existing parties. Further, their contribution will lead to a just and expeditious resolution of the issues involved in the proceeding without causing undue delay. This Petition is timely, as it is filed “within thirty days after the date of publication of the notice.” Ohio Admin. Code § 4906-2-12(A)(2)(b). The Petitioners’ basis for standing, reasons for intervention, and arguments as to why the Board should grant their Petition are set out in the accompanying Memorandum in Support.

Dated: October 6, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Trent Dougherty
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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF CHUCK RAWLINS, PAUL ETGEN, CAROL
HOLTREY, AND DONALD HOLTREY’S PETITION FOR LEAVE TO INTERVENE**

**I. Ohio Law Permits Intervention of Parties in Cases Before the Ohio Power
Siting Board**

The Ohio Power Siting Board (“Board”) may grant petitions to intervene “upon a showing of good cause.” Ohio Admin. Code § 4906-2-12(B). The Administrative Code provides that, in ruling on a petition to intervene, the Board must consider the following factors:

- (a) The nature and extent of the person’s interest.
- (b) The extent to which the person’s interest is represented by existing parties.
- (c) The person’s potential contribution to a just and expeditious resolution of the issues involved in the proceeding.
- (d) Whether granting the requested intervention would unduly delay the proceeding or unjustly prejudice an existing party.

Id. § 4906-2-12(B)(1). As described in the next section, all four of these factors support a finding that there is good cause to permit intervention by the Petitioners.

II. The Ohio Power Siting Board Should Grant the Petition to Intervene

Chuck Rawlins, Paul Etgen, and Carol Holtrey, and Donald Holtrey (together, “Petitioners”) are participating landowners who have each leased portions of their land for the Crossroads Solar Project (the “Project”).

Chuck Rawlins, 61 years old, is a permanent resident of the City of Kenton in Hardin County. Mr. Rawlins owns a 193-acre parcel of land in the Village of Cardington which he has agreed to lease for the project. His parents originally purchased the participating property in 1968, and he spent much of his youth farming with his father on the land. After the passing of his mother in 2015, Mr. Rawlins jointly acquired this property with three of his sisters: Mary Goddard, Ann Smith, and Marilyn Desjardin. His fourth sister, Donna Fischer, lives on a 15-acre parcel directly adjacent to the 193-acre parcel. Because the lease payments will furnish substantial retirement income for the siblings, Mr. Rawlins and his sisters decided to enter into an agreement with the Applicant to lease the property for the Project. Mr. Rawlins is especially supportive of agrivoltaics to honor his family's agricultural legacy on the property.

Carol Holtrey and Donald Holtrey, both 69 years old, are permanent residents of Gilead Township in Morrow County. They have been married for 39 years. The Holtreys own and have leased five parcels of land for the Project, totaling 186.5 acres of leased property. The parcels span three different townships: Cardington, Lincoln, and Westfield. The properties have been used exclusively for agriculture. The Holtreys will use the lease payments from the Project as supplementary retirement income. In addition, the Holtreys support the Project, in part, because their granddaughter is interested in sheep grazing on the property — a historical practice on their land dating back to the 1940s. If the Project is not approved, the Holtreys are concerned that farming may not remain financially viable for their family. Furthermore, the Project provides a stable pathway by which the Holtreys can pass on their property to their family for future agricultural use.

Paul Etgen, 45 years old, is a farmer who owns a 140-acre property in Lincoln Township that he has agreed to lease for the Project. Mr. Etgen's father purchased the property in 1985. Mr.

Etgen assisted his father in farming the property until his passing in 2022. In 2025, he formally acquired the property and farms the land. Mr. Etgen also farms the Holtrey's property. Because contemporary agricultural markets suffer from excessive operational costs, low commodity prices, and frequent market instability, Mr. Etgen decided to enter into an agreement with the Applicant to lease this property for the Project. With the addition of sheep grazing, the Project will provide a stable source of income while maintaining the agricultural character of the property. If the Project is not developed, however, Mr. Etgen foresees that he could suffer potential financial hardship including, but not limited to, accumulating debt and being forced to sell his personal property. Mr. Etgen has been an active member of his community throughout his career, assisting in 4-H programs to educate the next generation of farmers.

Petitioners request that the Board grant their Petition to Intervene (the "Petition") in the Board's review of Crossroads Solar I, LLC's Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to construct a solar-powered electric generation facility. All four of the factors set out under Section 4906-2-12(B)(1) of the Ohio Administrative Code support a finding of good cause for intervention: (a) Petitioners have a real and substantial interest in the Project as participating landowners; (b) Petitioners' interest in the Project is distinct from those of other parties and intervenors, none of whom are participating landowners; (c) given their distinct interests, Petitioners' participation will contribute to a just and expeditious resolution of the issues; and (d) because the petition is timely filed, Petitioners' participation will not unduly delay or prejudice any party.

a. The Petitioners have a real and substantial interest in the Project.

In assessing the nature and extent of the person's interest, the Board considers whether the petitioner has a "real and substantial interest" in the matter. *See* Ohio Adm. Code § 4906-2-12(D)(1)(a). The Board has found that this requirement is met when "an individual, direct

interest is at stake in the outcome of a proceeding.” Order Partially Granting Motions for Intervention, *In re Republic Wind, LLC*, Case No. 17-2295-EL-BGN at ¶ 20 (Aug. 21, 2018). The Board has found, for example, that owning property inside or abutting a project area is sufficient to establish a real and substantial interest for purposes of intervention. *Id.*

Here, each of the Petitioners has an individual, direct interest at stake in the outcome of this proceeding. As participating landowners, each will receive income from the lease agreements they entered into with the Applicant if the Project is completed. They will be deprived of this income if the application is denied. Relatedly, they each have an interest in protecting their right as landowners to make productive and zoning-compliant use of their property, a right that is protected by the Ohio Constitution. *See* OH Const. Art. I, § 1 (“All men . . . have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of . . . acquiring, possessing, and protecting property.”).

b. The Petitioners’ interests differ from those of existing parties.

As participating landowners, the Petitioners also have interests that are not shared by any existing party or intervenor. None of the existing parties are participating landowners. Nor can the Applicant itself represent their interests. While Petitioners share the Applicant’s interest in seeing the project approved, they have a distinct interest in the long-term health and condition of their land, as well as a distinct interest in any conditions applicable to the long-term care and stewardship of their land.

c. The Petitioners’ participation will contribute to a just and expeditious resolution of the issues involved in the proceeding and to full development and equitable resolution of factual issues in this case.

The Petitioners’ intervention in this proceeding will contribute to a just and expeditious resolution of the relevant issues and contribute to a full development of the factual record. Their testimony may help the Board to find and determine the information necessary to grant a

Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, including the extent to which the Project will: “serve the public interest, convenience and necessity,” *see* Ohio Rev. Code § 4906.10(A)(6); “impact the viability of farmland,” *id.* § 4906.10(A)(7); and “represent[] the minimum adverse environmental impact,” *id.* § 4906.10(A)(3). Specifically, as participating landowners, they can provide a first-hand perspective on: (1) the economic opportunity that the Project presents to farmers and participating landowners; and (2) other economic and environmental benefits that the Project will deliver to the community.

d. The Petitioners’ intervention will not cause undue delay of the Board’s review of the Project.

This Petition is timely, as it is filed “within thirty days after the date of publication of the notice.” Ohio Admin. Code § 4906-2-12(A)(2)(b). Because this Petition is timely filed, Petitioners’ involvement will not cause undue delay of the Board’s review. In addition, Petitioners are motivated to see the process go as smoothly as possible, as they would like to see the Project approved and completed expeditiously and without any delay. Finally, allowing Petitioners to intervene jointly due to their shared interests and perspectives will provide the Board the opportunity to consider their views and interests more efficiently and expeditiously.

III. Conclusion

For the reasons stated in this Memorandum in Support, the Board should grant Petitioners’ Petition to Intervene in this proceeding concerning Crossroads Solar I, LLC’s Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to construct a solar-powered electric generation facility. As participating landowners, Petitioners have a real and substantial interest in the Project; they have different interests from those of the existing parties; their participation will contribute to a just and expeditious resolution of the issues involved in the proceeding; and their

intervention will not cause undue delay of the Board's review of the Project.

Dated: October 6, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Trent Dougherty

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of this filing will be electronically served via the Ohio Power Siting Board's e-filing system on all parties referenced in the service list of the docket.

Dated: October 6, 2025

/s/ Trent Dougherty
Trent Dougherty

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
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Case No(s). 25-0142-EL-BGN

Summary: Petition CHUCK RAWLINS, PAUL ETGEN, CAROL HOLTREY, AND DONALD HOLTREY PETITION FOR LEAVE TO INTERVENE electronically filed by Mr. Trent A. Dougherty on behalf of Rawlins, Chuck and Holtrey, Carol and Holtrey, Donald and Etgen, Paul.