

June 23, 2020

Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Subject: Business Demand for Renewable Energy

Dear Chairman Randazzo and Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board:

We are writing on behalf of the Columbus Partnership, a nonprofit organization of CEOs from Columbus' leading businesses and institutions.

Smart Columbus Energy is an initiative undertaken by the Columbus Partnership that uses its industry partnerships and membership to aggregate and scale the purchase of Ohio-based, off-site renewable energy for participating members. This week, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio approved Smart Columbus Energy's application to become certified as an electricity aggregator to provide clean energy solutions to companies in the Columbus Region.

Smart Columbus Energy is an extension of Smart Columbus, an initiative launched in 2016 after Columbus won the USDOT Smart City Challenge. Through Smart Columbus, our city has become a leader in the adoption of electric vehicles among non-ZEV states.

Columbus Partnership members see value in transitioning to Ohio-based clean energy to serve a portion of their electrical load. In addition to the cost-effectiveness of Ohio-based renewable energy and the job creation potential for our state, our members' customers and shareholders are driving this initiative because it helps them achieve their Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) goals. Columbus Partnership members realize that to stay competitive, they will need to procure local renewable energy at competitive rates.

The Smart Columbus Energy team is made up of experts in sustainability and energy procurement. We have years of experience implementing successful corporate sustainability programs, delivering high value return to our clients. As explained in its approved certification application, Smart Columbus Energy plans to vet its partner suppliers on the basis of the supplier's service record and ability to deliver clean energy projects *with a particular focus on the ability to source those projects from Ohio*. This is the supply side of the equation. Our members represent the demand side of the equation for new renewable projects in the state.

As the OPSB voting members review the rules for power generation siting, we are confident that you will continue a fair and predictable siting process that allows for new Ohio projects to serve our members and many others.

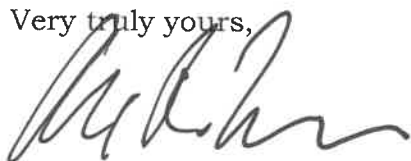
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Specifically, we ask that you continue an appropriate and reliable process to develop the full potential of utility scale solar in Ohio, including economic development and investment opportunities for Ohio companies, workers, and local communities. With this type of approach, the supply-side of the equation will be positioned to serve the Smart Columbus Energy demand in a cost-effective manner – all the while delivering significant economic benefits to the rural communities where these Ohio-based projects are being developed.

Thank you for allowing this critical public feedback into your efforts and for the opportunity to highlight the fact that the success or failure of our initiative, and in-turn the global competitiveness of our members, hinges upon the continuance of a fair and constructive permitting process at the Power Siting Board.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our great state.

Very truly yours,



Alex R. Fischer
President and CEO
Columbus Partnership



Mark Patton
Vice President
Smart Columbus Energy

ARF:MP/tt

C: Theresa White, Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio