



Working together for Ohio farmers to advance agriculture and strengthen our communities.

Union County Farm Bureau Members,

We hope to take a few minutes of your time to clear up some information regarding Ohio Farm Bureau's involvement with the Richwood Solar project. Unfortunately, social media has resulted in misinformation and a lack of nuance that does not correctly represent OFBF's position.

Ohio Farm Bureau and Union County Farm Bureau are strong supporters, in general, of private property rights. However, we also have state policy that supports the preservation of farmland, and a county policy passed by our members last year that supports solar infrastructure not be placed on prime farm ground. Ohio Farm Bureau has long intervened in solar project certificate cases in order to ensure certain protections are considered and included within any solar project certificate that might be granted. OFBF is clear in its initial motion to intervene that it does not take a position on the project itself. As is customary, OFBF signed a stipulation in the Richwood Solar case which states we recommend the conditions in the stipulation be incorporated into an opinion, order and certificate for Richwood Solar. However, what is being left out of the conversation about this stipulation is an important footnote which states that OFBF does not join the third section of that stipulation. The third section is where other parties have made a recommendation that a certificate be granted. OFBF, in not joining that section, has made no such recommendation and takes no position on that statement. Instead, OFBF's position is that there has been an agreement on what conditions the project should have to follow *if* it is granted a certificate by the Power Siting Board.

Because of Farm Bureau's actions, nearly every solar project across the state of Ohio includes important protections for farm drainage and noxious weed elimination. Without these protections, those in and around solar projects would be forced to hire a lawyer, file an action against a solar company or utility, and endure expensive litigation to get problems like broken drainage tiles addressed. Instead, the Ohio Power Siting Board and its enforcement staff enforce these obligations and a solar project's permit to operate is in jeopardy if they do not follow these conditions. In numerous situations we have been able to connect a landowner with the Power Siting Board staff and see quick attention and remedy to these situations.

And because of this work, the Power Siting Board staff began including OFBF drafted and negotiated conditions into their own staff reports, and now have incorporated those same requirements into rules that will apply to nearly all utility projects moving forward. These important landowner protections would not have happened without Ohio Farm Bureau's continued advocacy and engagement with this process over many years.

The staff of the Power Siting board review solar project applications, make suggestions for conditions, and ultimately recommend a project be granted or denied. The staff of the Power Siting Board have recommended Richwood Solar be denied a certificate, and there is other significant opposition to the project as you all know. The Power Siting Board will conduct its normal hearing process and make a decision based on all of the evidence presented whether the project should be granted or not.

Always remember that the positions of Ohio Farm Bureau and your county Farm Bureau are set by you, the members, through the policy development process. Any position taken by the state or county starts with policy developed by the members at the local level. There will always be individual decisions or positions that one of our more than 60,000 members could disagree with, but it is our ability to come together on the things we do agree on that make this organization strong.

Sincerely,
Mike Plotner, President &
David Gruenbaum, President Elect September 2025
Union County Farm Bureau