



Linda S. Bolon  
State Representative, 1st House District

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December 13, 2007

Mr. Chris Korleski  
Director, Ohio EPA  
50 West Town Street  
Suite 700  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Ohio River Clean Fuels' coal and biomass to liquids project

Dear Director Korleski:

I wish to express my support for the Ohio River Clean Fuels' coal and biomass to liquids project in Wellsville, Ohio. This project will bring a great number of quality jobs and other significant economic benefits to an area of the state in great need of economic revitalization. Further, this type of project is a critical step towards our country's energy independence and environmentally conscientious use of our most abundant natural resource.

On behalf of the 112,000 citizens of Columbiana County I represent, I ask that you make the review of the project's permits a top priority. The influx of jobs and capital investment offered by this project are needed as quickly as possible. I would like to thank you in advance for a thorough and rapid review of Ohio River Clean Fuels' permit applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda S. Bolon".

Linda S. Bolon  
State Representative, District I

DEC 14 2007



October 31st, 2007

Steve Dopuch  
V.P. Business Development, BAARD Energy LLC  
9013 NE HWY 99, Suite S  
Vancouver, WA  
98665

Dear Mr. Dopuch,

It's clear that high oil prices and concern about U.S. reliance on foreign oil is creating a new interest in coal to fuel projects. While these projects may provide a new source of fuel in the U.S., they also come with a risk of greater emissions of global warming pollution and increased environmental impacts from coal mining.

We wish to commend BAARD energy for its recent commitments regarding some of the most important below practices. Your company's sincere promise to utilize biomass co-firing and carbon sequestration and storage makes it an industry leader. Your choice to utilize these practices at a time where federal regulations do not demand them means you are serious about environmental impacts.

For the OEC, to the extent that coal to fuels projects move forward, then, at a minimum, the following policies and practices must be developed:

- 1) **Real enforcement of mining environmental, safety, and reclamation laws.** Since 1977 5 million acres of land have been disturbed by mining activities. *Of this land only 2.2 million acres have been reclaimed to federal guidelines.* That means the *majority* of lands mined in this country since 1977 have not been reclaimed to the proper, legally mandated specifications. If coal to fuels is to receive support, a requirement of full reclamation in coal extraction must go along with it. Additionally, the safety of mineworkers must be ensured. As recent high profile cave-ins have illustrated, dangerous mining techniques like retreat mining must be reviewed and monitored with more attention.
- 2) **Banning of mountaintop removal.** Mountaintop removal is the most destructive form of surface mining. It should be halted immediately.
- 3) **Adoption of a coal purchasing stewardship policy by project developers.** Project developers should develop coal purchasing standards that ensure coal sourcing comes from producers that minimize environment, health, and safety risks.
- 4) **Carbon Capture and Storage.** Coal to liquids projects must use carbon capture and storage. This is essential to improving the carbon balance of the coal to fuels industry, whose fuels could emit 1.8 the carbon of the petroleum equivalent without carbon capture and storage.
- 5) **Use of Biomass as part of the fuel mix for Coal to fuels producers.** Biomass sources such as switchgrass, and dedicated woody biomass can potentially create a fuel that has a significantly better overall carbon emission rate than petroleum based fuel. Project developers should include a biomass feedstock

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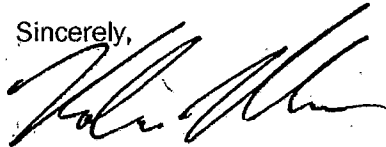
**O · H · I · O**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**COUNCIL**  
KEEP WATCH, TAKE ACTION, MAKE CHANGE

component to their project. A lifecycle analysis of greenhouse gas emissions should be applied to the feedstock, in order to ensure confidence in the GHG reductions. Developers should, as with coal, develop environmental sourcing protocols for the biomass supply.

For coal to fuels, corporate conscientiousness for environmental impacts should be expected and demanded, as it is a potentially destructive industry. The technology to implement all the above requirements exists and is commercially viable; responsible producers will work to embrace American ingenuity and environmental stewardship.

The Ohio Environmental Council has a strong interest in working with all stakeholders to ensure these policies and practices are fully developed. Companies that agree to work responsibly to respect the environment as well as their bottom line should be commended; the OEC is always open to working with sincere, responsible stakeholders; so far BAARD energy has shown all these hallmarks.

Sincerely,



Nolan Moser  
The Ohio Environmental Council

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## The East Liverpool Area Chamber of Commerce

529 Market St. • P. O. Box 94  
EAST LIVERPOOL, OHIO 43920  
Phone (330) 385-0845 • Fax (330) 385-0581  
E - Mail: [office@elchamber.com](mailto:office@elchamber.com)

November 15, 2007

Ohio Senator Jason Wilson  
Senate Building  
Room # 052 Ground Floor  
Columbus OH 43215

Dear Senator Wilson:

On behalf of the East Liverpool Area Chamber of Commerce I am writing to express our support for the Ohio River Clean Fuels plant being developed by Baard Energy LLC in Wellsville, Ohio.

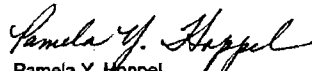
As concerned business members of the community, and a resident who wishes to see our local economy grow, we extend our appreciation for your hard work and dedication to this project. We understand that not all interests groups in Washington DC wish to see this project become a reality. However, we would like you to know you have support from me and my fellow business leaders. We stand behind you 100% in your commitment to this project that can bring thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of permanent good paying jobs to our area.

Whether it is diesel fuel for the private sector or jet fuel for our Armed Forces, we are a proud area whose workforce would cherish this opportunity to provide clean fuel from coal while lessening the emissions to the environment. We would much rather have our fuel produced right here at home, than continue to rely on unstable foreign resources.

The East Liverpool Area Chamber of Commerce initiated meetings of all the Chambers in Columbiana County to offer assistance for the Baard project with our goal being a website dedicated to their construction requirements. We also offer our assistance to you in your efforts to make the Baard Energy endeavor become a reality.

Once again, thank you for your efforts on the Baard Energy LLC project and our area. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

  
Pamela Y. Hoppel  
CEO

**DETERMINED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Your East Liverpool Area Chamber of Commerce  
and Progress Go Hand In Hand

COLUMBIANA – MAHONING – TRUMBULL COUNTIES IN OHIO

*Western Reserve Building  
and Construction Trades Council*



291 McClurg Road  
Youngstown, Ohio 44512

Phone: (330) 758-8160

Fax: (330) 758-5562



December 12, 2007

Mr. Chris Korleski  
Director, Ohio EPA  
50 West Town Street  
Suite 700  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Ohio River Clean Fuels' coal and biomass to liquids project

Dear Director Korleski:

I am writing to you today in support for the Ohio River Clean Fuels' coal and biomass to liquids project in Wellsville, Ohio. This project will bring a great number of quality jobs and other significant economic benefits to an area of the state in need of economic revitalization. Further, this type of project is a critical step towards our country's energy independence and environmentally conscientious use of our most abundant natural resource.

On behalf of the 4,000 members of the Western Reserve Building and Construction Trades Council, which represents Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, we ask that you make the review of the project's permits a top priority. The influx of jobs and capital investment offered by this project are needed as quickly as possible. I would like to thank you in advance for a thorough and rapid review of Ohio River Clean Fuels' permit applications.

Sincerely,

Donald T. Crane  
President

DTC/sro



# City Of EAST LIVERPOOL

JAMES P. SWOGER, Mayor

OHIO, U.S.A.

43920

Phone (330) 385-3381

Fax (330) 385-3955

December 12, 2007

Mr. Chris Korleski  
Director, Ohio EPA  
50 West Town Street  
Suite 700  
Columbus, OH 43215

**RE: OHIO RIVER CLEAN FUELS' COAL AND BIOMASS TO LIQUIDS PROJECT**

Dear Director Korleski:

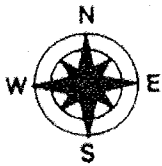
As Mayor of the City of East Liverpool, I wholeheartedly endorse the Ohio River Clean Fuels' coal and biomass to liquids project in Wellsville, Ohio. Columbiana County has experienced significant out-migration due to the closing of local steel mills (around 1982) and subsequent loss of 6,000 jobs for our community and the lack of local opportunities for employment. This project, after 25 years of economic decline brings hope that quality jobs will finally be provided to Appalachian Ohio. We trust the protective measures designed into this project are sound for the environment and also a positive impact toward economic growth.

I trust that your review of the permits for the project will be a priority considering the magnitude of job possibilities and future growth for our area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Swoger". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James P. Swoger, Mayor  
City of East Liverpool



# Columbiana County Port Authority

1250 St. George Street, East Liverpool, Ohio 43920  
(330) 386-9051 • FAX (330) 386-1122

December 17, 2007

Mr. Chris Korleski  
Director, Ohio EPA  
50 West Town Street  
Suite 700  
Columbus, OH 43215

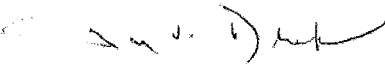
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Dear Director Korleski:

This letter is written in support of the Ohio River Clean Fuels' coal and biomass to liquids project in Wellsville, Ohio. The project will bring a great number of quality jobs and other significant economic benefits to Appalachian Ohio, which is in need of economic revitalization. Equally important, it will help the United States move toward energy independence. We believe that the safeguards built into the project make it a model of good environmental stewardship and economic development.

In recognition of the economic benefits this project will confer on Columbiana County and the surrounding community, we ask that you make the review of the project's permits a top priority. The influx of jobs and capital investment offered by this project are needed as quickly as possible.

Yours truly,

  
Tracy V. Drake  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Board of Directors  
Atty. Petricoff

# VILLAGE OF WELLSVILLE



JOE SURACE - MAYOR  
1200 MAIN STREET  
WELLSVILLE, OHIO  
PHONE 330-532-2524 #12

December 17, 2007

Mr. Chris Korleski  
Director, Ohio EPA  
50 West Town Street  
Suite 700  
Columbus, Ohio

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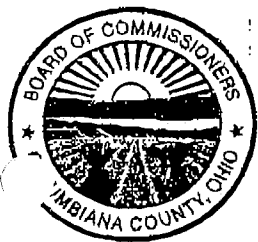
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Yours truly,

Joseph Surace  
Mayor, Village of Wellsville



# COLUMBIANA COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners

Jim Hoppel, President  
Daniel T. Bing  
Penny J. Traina

December 12, 2007

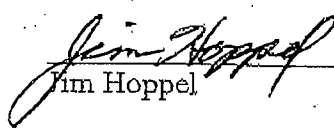
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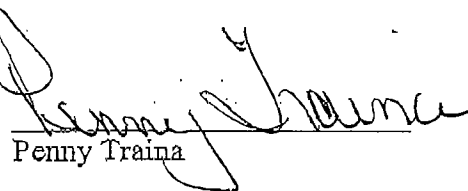
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Jim Hoppel

  
Daniel Bing

  
Penny Traina