

## PROPONENT TESTIMONY

HB 118

Don Hollister, Miami Township Trustee, Greene County

March 9, 2021

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith and members of the Committee. My name is Don Hollister. I am a Miami Township Trustee from Greene County. I speak as an individual in support of HB 118 and would like to address the Home Rule implications.

In Ohio, as a Home Rule state, governing the state involves a constant balancing act between local planning and judgements about a wider "good." When should the greater good override local planning and local preferences?

However, current practice at the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) does not consider the overall electric distribution system needs or statewide land use patterns and needs. That should be the basis of overriding local planning and preferences.

Instead, the OPSB is charged with ruling on specific site projects without looking at the energy system big picture or evaluating relative siting qualities such as relative soil quality and land productivity in comparison to other sites in the state.

It is as if any developer who could get leases for building a toll road and show that drainage and noise would not be a problem would have the right to build it, even when local planners argued that this was a bad idea, that there were better routes.

Until Ohio has a statewide system for evaluating relative value of utility scale power projects, local jurisdictions should have a way of asserting Home Rule. HB 118 would provide for that.