

Aaron D. Montz
50 Meadow Lane
Tiffin, OH 44883

March 5, 2021

TO: Members of the Ohio House of Representatives and Senate

SUBJECT: Proponent Testimony HB 118 / SB 52

Dear Members of the Ohio Legislature,

I am writing you today to implore you to support both House Bill 118 and Senate Bill 52 in the coming days, weeks, and months. Both H.B. 118 and S.B. 52 will increase local feedback while encouraging engagement from residents throughout the process of establishing (or not establishing) industrial wind and solar projects in their respective communities.

Our nation was built upon principles of democracy and providing the people with a voice so that they may be heard loud and clear. Unfortunately, that voice is taken away from our citizens when power is handed exclusively to an unelected group of individuals. Furthermore, the citizenry is further muted when they discover projects of this scope and scale are being finalized behind their backs with no clear notification until it is too late.

I have long held the belief that local control over development and the ability for referendum are both imperative to the survival of the basic principles of our nation. Citizens deserve the ability to vote for, or against, mega-projects which may have a significant impact on both the quality of life and/or property values for generations to come.

Legislators, the remedy here is simple, clear, and a win-win for Ohioans: allow for local officials to place issues such as the one before you on the ballot so your constituents may weigh in and allow their voices be heard. While I am not writing this letter to opine on the overall effectiveness of wind and solar power, I do know from my own experience as an elected official, providing the people who elect us additional oversight is a good thing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aaron D. Montz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aaron D. Montz