

PROPONENT TESTIMONY
HB 118 House Public Utilities Committee
Virginia Carol Benton – Preble County
March 9, 2021

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith, and the members of the Committee. My name is Virginia Carol Benton and I reside in the small village of Fairhaven in Israel Township, Preble County. I am here in support of HB 118 that addresses the need for local citizens participation in the responsible siting of utility scale wind and solar projects in Ohio.

The focus of my testimony is on my experience as a lifelong Israel Township resident and as the initiator and co-leader of the Israel Township Neighborhood Watch Team. I have dedicated the past decade of my life as a Neighborhood Watch Leader because I love my community and want to make it more safe and secure. The proposed solar project in Israel Township threatens to undermine the tremendous effort we have expended over the past ten years. The project is not transparent, but the risks are real.

WE SHOULD VOTE. The hope and future of our land, water, air, and our lives depend on our elected representatives - to act on our behalf with honest RESEARCH with the CONSEQUENCES and as well as the advantages identified. None of which have been proven to our advantage on Solar Safety and Responsibility. These consequences are: COST - LONG TERM DESTRUCTION.

Keep us informed - Keep us safe - LET US VOTE! It is our land!