

Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation  
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To: Ohio House of Representatives – Public Utilities Committee  
From: Matthew A. Szollosi  
Date: 3.23.21  
  
Re: HB 118 – Wind Farms

Chairman Hoops / Vice-Chair Ray / Ranking Member Smith:

Please be advised that the Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation (“ACT Ohio”) is a 501(c)(5) organization created by the Ohio State Building & Construction Trades Council to encourage economic and industrial development opportunities, and to facilitate utilization of industry-best practices for Ohio’s public and private construction. For the reasons that follow, I offer this testimony as our organization’s opposition to HB 118 in its current format.

ACT Ohio has long maintained an “all of the above” strategy with respect to energy generation in the State of Ohio, including coal, solar, wind, natural gas and nuclear power. At more than 80 state-of-the-art training facilities across the state, Building Trades apprentices are acquiring the knowledge and skills to produce the high-quality craftsmanship necessary to support every facet of energy production in Ohio. These state-of-the-art apprenticeship training centers are all 100% privately funded through employer contributions and member deductions. (The total taxpayer investment in Building Trades apprenticeship training programs is \$0).

According to the Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services (as of 11/24/2020), roughly 80% of Ohio’s construction industry apprentices are registered in our programs. This includes 95% of Ohio’s female apprentices and 84% of Ohio’s minority apprentices. Upon completion of their training, they become an essential part of our industry.

Please let me be clear: We have profound respect for all of our customers, investors and colleagues in every sector of the power generation market in Ohio. We appreciate every past, present and future opportunity to work on combined cycle natural gas burners, the nuclear power facilities, wind turbines, in addition to the solar power facilities I will be discussing below. Our apprenticeship training in many instances is specifically geared towards the latest most cutting-edge technologies so that investors can rest assured we can build anything they plan for.

Our primary interest with regard to HB 118 is directly on the jobs that the solar power generation industry provides our members and their families on an annual basis.

With regard to Ohio’s solar power generation policy, the state’s PILOT program incentivizes job creation for Ohio residents by offering beneficial property tax treatment to developers in exchange for

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commitments to hire Ohio residents. Many of these full-time workers belong to the Building Trades, earning strong wages and competitive benefits. Simply put, the State of Ohio “got it right” by putting the PILOT program in place.

I have attached information from the Ohio Power Siting Board identifying 2 categories of solar development projects: *Approved Solar Facilities* and *Pending and Pre-application Solar Facilities*. At a glance, the Ohio Power Siting Board has approved 12 projects totaling 2089.6 megawatts of power. The *Pending* information shows an additional 23 projects totaling 4,270.9 megawatts of power on projects in the pre-application phase or pending approval.

To give you some scale, we estimate anywhere from 800,000 to 1,000,000 work hours for every 200mw of power produced on these solar developments. Applying this calculus to the pending project list, we are discussing between 16-20 million work hours for Ohio’s Building Trades workforce over the next several years, particularly in rural counties where so many of our members reside and need the work. These hours are very meaningful to our members and their families.

The provisions of HB 118 as it currently stands puts the projects on the *Pending* list at risk. By adding a township-level veto process for approval, many if not all of these projects will simply look to other states where the business climate for their investment dollar is more inviting. It simply inserts too much risk into the equation, and would result in a scatter-shot approach to solar development that would result in the disintegration of the momentum we currently have due the PILOT program as well as demand from end users for this type of power.

For these reasons, we oppose HB 118 in its current form and urge the committee to find more common ground to address the concerns of proponents while not putting these projects, and the millions of workhours for our members, at risk.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Szollosi

Approved Solar Facilities			Potential Solar Facilities (Pending and Pre-application)		
Approved Megawatts (MW):		2,089.6	Potential Megawatts (MW):		4,270.9
Approved Solar Facilities (50 MW or greater)					
Case Number	Related Cases	Project Name	Approval Date	County	MW
17-0773-EL-BGN	NA	Hardin I*	12/31/20	Hardin	150
17-0774-EL-BGN	NA	Vinton	9/20/18	Vinton	125
17-1152-EL-BGN		Hillcrest*	2/15/18	Brown	200
	18-1267-EL-BGA		2/21/19		
18-1024-EL-BGN	NA	Willowbrook I	9/17/18	Brown, Highland	150
18-1334-EL-BGN	NA	Highland	5/16/19	Highland	300
18-1360-EL-BGN		Hardin II*	5/16/19	Hardin	170
	20-1321-EL-BGA		1/21/21		
18-1546-EL-BGN	NA	Nestlewood	4/16/20	Brown, Clermont	80
19-1823-EL-BGN	NA	Madison	3/18/21	Madison	196
19-1880-EL-BGN	NA	Atlanta Farms	12/22/20	Pickaway	199.6
19-1881-EL-BGN	NA	Madison Fields	1/21/21	Madison	180
20-0972-EL-BGN	NA	Yellowbud	2/18/21	Pickaway, Ross	274
20-1288-EL-BGN	NA	New Market	3/18/21	Highland	65
*under construction				<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>2,089.6</b>
Pending and Pre-application Solar Facilities (50 MW or greater)					
Case Number		Project Name	Filing Date	County	MW
18-1578-EL-BGN		Alamo	12/10/18	Preble	69.9
18-1579-EL-BGN		Angelina	12/3/18	Preble	80
20-1084-EL-BGN		Powell Creek	10/7/20	Putnam	150
20-0931-EL-BGN		Fox Squirrel	10/14/20	Madison	577
20-0979-EL-BGN		Arche	7/30/20	Fulton	107
20-1362-EL-BGN		Clearview	12/18/20	Champaign	144
20-1380-EL-BGN		Ross County	10/30/20	Ross	120
20-1405-EL-BGN		Union County	12/24/20	Union	325
20-1529-EL-BGN		Wheatsborough	2/11/21	Erie	125
20-1605-EL-BGN		Birch	2/12/21	Allen, Auglaize	300
20-1612-EL-BGN		Mark Center	12/18/2020	Defiance	110
20-1677-EL-BGN		Cadence	2/1/2021	Union	275
20-1678-EL-BGN		Hardin III	2/11/2021	Hardin	300
20-1679-EL-BGN		Pleasant Prairie	2/19/2021	Franklin	250
20-1680-EL-BGN		Yellow Wood	2/24/2021	Clinton	300
20-1757-EL-BGN		Union Ridge	pre-application	Licking	108
20-1760-EL-BGN		Juliet	3/12/2021	Wood	101
20-1762-EL-BGN		Sycamore Creek	2/12/2021	Crawford	117
20-1814-EL-BGN		Dodson Creek	pre-application	Highland	117
21-0004-EL-BGN		Tymochtee	pre-application	Wyandot	120
21-0036-EL-BGN		Marion County	3/5/2021	Marion	100
21-0041-EL-BGN		Palomino	pre-application	Highland	200
21-0117-EL-BGN		Kingwood	pre-application	Greene	175
				<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>4,270.9</b>



Notes: Project locations are provided by applicants. Case and construction status is determined by the case filings. The nameplate capacity shown is the maximum capacity that could be built based on the number of approved photovoltaic panels and the highest nameplate capacity of the approved panel models.

*\*Pre-Application\* project locations, capacity, and acreage may be approximated.*

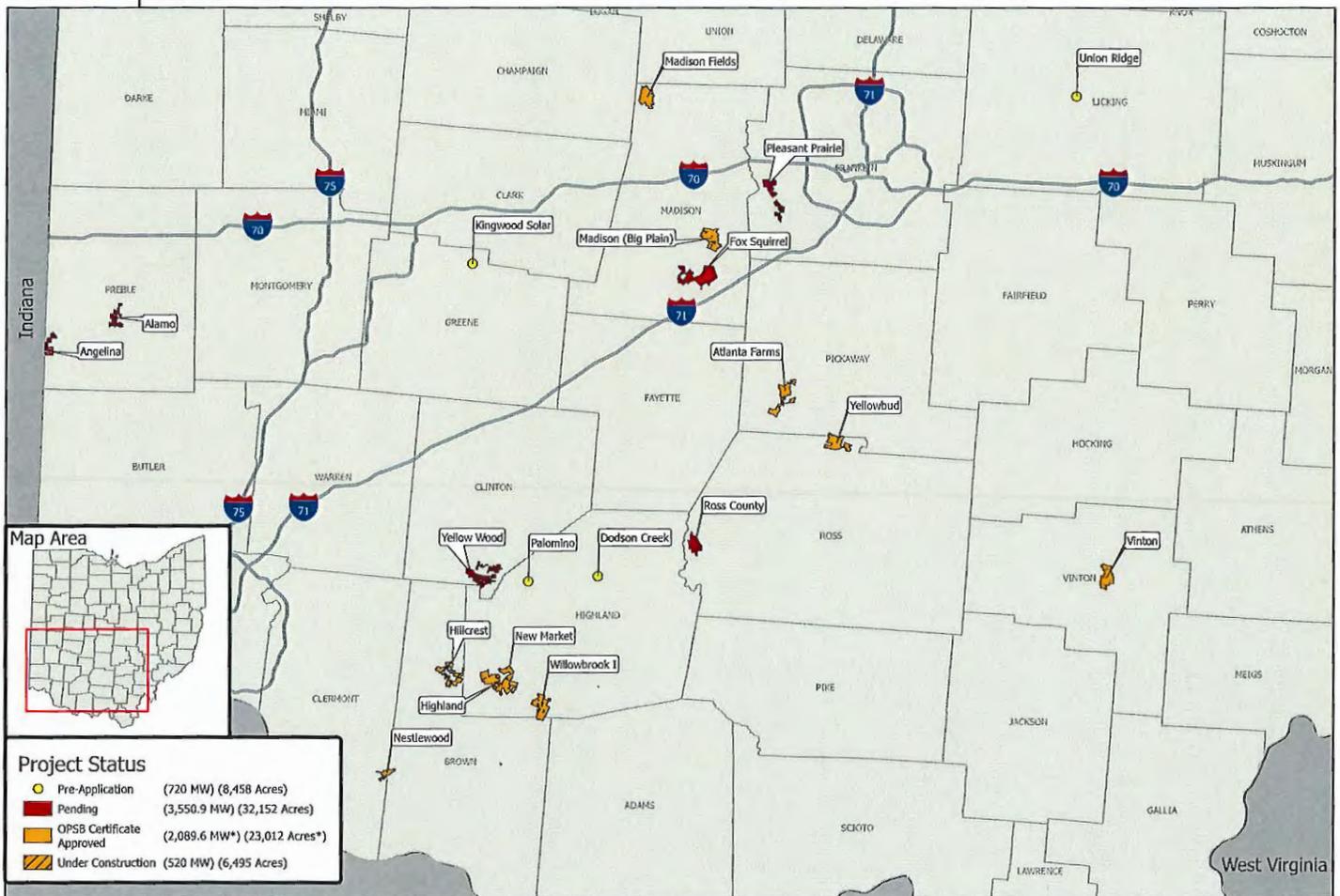
*\*\*OPSB Certificate Approved\* MW and acreage values include \*Under Construction\* and \*Operational\* MW and acreage values.*



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