



# MADISON-PLAINS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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House Public Utilities Committee  
House Bill 118  
Opposition Testimony  
March 23, 2021

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith and members of the committee, I thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony today opposing House Bill 118.

My name is Todd Mustain and I am the Treasurer/CFO of Madison-Plains Local School District. I am proud to stand before you all to advocate today on behalf of my board of education, and my school district regarding this proposed bill.

As treasurer of the school district, my main responsibility lies with the numbers and with managing the district's finances, so I'll stick to the numbers today.

The two solar farm projects in our district at full capacity will generate a calculated \$3.9 million dollars per year for the next 20 to 40 years for Madison-Plains Local Schools at no additional cost to the State of Ohio, and no additional cost to our local taxpayers.

This \$3.9 million dollars in annual revenue is equivalent to the following in our district:

- A 12 mill property tax levy
- A 2.125% earned income tax levy
- 85% of our annual state foundation funding
- 55% of our annual local property tax revenue
- 2x our annual income tax revenue
- 25% of our total annual general fund budget

This potential unrestricted, pandemic-proof revenue generated from the two solar farm projects in our district would help provide the financial stability Madison-Plains desperately needs.

We are doing our best to stabilize our finances on our own, including passing our first ever earned income tax in 2018, and keeping our costs down to less than one-percent (<1%) annual increases in expenditures; however, we know that these efforts alone may not be enough to ensure our long term financial stability. In fact, without this solar farm revenue our most recent five-year forecast projects our district to have a negative general fund balance by 2024.

The annual revenue generated from the solar farm projects would be significant in keeping our district "in the black" for many years to come without having to cut staff or programs, without additional cost to the State of Ohio, and without additional cost to our Madison-Plains taxpayers.

The \$3.9 million dollars in annual solar farm revenue generated on approximately 7 square miles (2.8%) of our 248 square mile school district would benefit over 10,000 residents over the next 20 to 40 years; however, if House Bill 118 were to pass, it could all be taken away by a few hundred voters, or a few trustees.

I applaud the solar farm companies and the landowners they have partnered with that have adhered to every state requirement in order to safely bring such a “win-win” industry to our district; A win for agricultural landowners, a win for the environment, a win for jobs, a win for public education and most importantly for Madison-Plains Local School District, an annual \$3.9 million dollar win for our residents and students.

Thank you again for your time, and for listening.

Todd Mustain  
Treasurer/CFO  
Madison-Plains Local School District