

Subject: Written opponent testimony of Gina Burk for Senate Public Utilities and House Public Utilities Committee on March 23,2021

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members, members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee.

As someone who has worked on the start up of local companies in the renewable energy sector and currently sits on the board of an energy service provider, I write today to express my concern with HB 118 and Senate Bill 52.

Both Bills would effectively stop the development of new wind and solar farms in Ohio, resulting in a significant loss to our economy. Passage of the bills would broadcast to investors, developers, and corporate leaders that Ohio is not interested in the technologies of the future or the benefits that come with them.

Recently, Jobs Ohio reported that Ohio was the most attractive state for companies to build their second headquarters, beyond low cost of living, diverse economy and corporate friendly tax structures those companies must have reliable clean energy to meet their ESG reporting standards for emission targets of 50% by 2030 and 0% by 2050. Attracting new jobs to Ohio would be effectively killed.

Local residents have multiple avenues of participation in the siting process as it exists today. A small number of opponents should not be able to overturn Ohio Power Siting Board decisions in which all interested stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gina Burk

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