

Ohio House Public Utilities Committee

Dear Members,

I write to oppose House Bill 118.

The bill is an assault on our environment and a benefit to the fossil fuel and nuclear industries.

Creating a provision allowing municipalities, including townships, the legal authority to overrule state laws promoting renewable energy sources of wind and solar, is a deliberate effort to create a "chilling effect" on the prospect of any renewable energy developer knowing that upfront investment of capital that could create jobs -- including in low-income communities across Ohio -- could be easily overturned. By creating such a deterrent, climate destroying fossil fuels and dangerous nuclear power are left to fill the energy production void -- to the delight of fossil fuel and nuclear corporate lobbyists and donors to some of your political campaigns.

Additionally, anointing local communities the legal authority to overrule state decisions via a referendum is a curious decision by the Ohio House and Ohio Senate which in recent years have acted, in many instances, to usurp local self-determination regarding local ordinances regarding gun control, preventing fracking, raising the minimum wage, taxing private transportation modes and banning plastic bags. This is in addition to recent state legislative efforts to aggressively limit the ability of Ohioans via citizen initiatives to create charter forms of country government. On the surface, this appears as a complete contradiction, but actually it isn't. In both instances, it's supposedly "public" officials serving the interests of powerful private business corporations.

Real public service to people, places and the planet demands a NO vote to House Bill 118

Respectfully,

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