

**Written Opponent Testimony of Thomas Zeno**

Senate Bill 52 and House Bill 118

Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

House Public Utilities Committee

March 20, 2021

Chairs, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members, members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, I am writing today to express my concern with SB 52 and HB 118. My name is Thomas Zeno from Cincinnati. I believe it is important for Ohioans to speak out against legislation that would have a detrimental effect on Ohio's energy policy.

Local veto power is not appropriate to the development of new wind and solar farms in Ohio. Renewable energy is a significant boost to our economy in the near term and the long term. Moreover, renewable energy is essential to prosperity for future generations. 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.

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 had an opportunity to be heard.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony to the Committees today.