

## **PROPONENT TESTIMONY**

Sub. SB 52

Ellen Wieging (Allen County)

June 22, 2021

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith and members of the Committee I am in support of revised Senate Bill 52 and would like to share our reasons why we support the passage of this bill.

I am Ellen Wieging and will be speaking on the behalf of my 82 year old mother Nancy Wieging. She moved into our home here in Allen County in 1964, after marrying my father who is now deceased. In discussions I have had with her she has mentioned if the Birch Solar 1 project goes in, it will be a SOLAR PANEL WASTELAND! We are concerned over many things... our land, property values, the rain water runoffs, any damage to our well water that we and our livestock use daily, the wildlife, & the terrible impact to residential areas. This is to name a few bad impacts, off top of my head.

We are against this project as it surrounds my mother's farm and will be surrounded on four sides by the Birch Solar 1 project! We will not be able to look out a single window in our home without seeing acres of solar panels and having to deal with the huge increase temperature created by the "heat island effect". Although this legislation might not stop the planned Birch Solar 1 project from being developed and consuming our home, we do support the ability of County Commissioners to create exclusion zones and prevent such terrible living conditions and significant decreases in the value of property for others in the future.