

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

SB 52

Cheryl Counts

Allen County

March 9, 2021

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Schuring, ranking member Williams, members of the committee, we write as proponents of SB-52. I am Cheryl Counts and I reside in Allen County. I support HB 118 and would like to address the Birch Solar Industrial Complex.

I would like to submit my support for Senate Bill 52 and House Bill 118. I think it is critically important for local residents to have a vote in matters that have a major impact on their own and their children's health, safety, and financial security.

As my own community faces the possibility of both large solar and wind projects covering thousands of acres with no major benefits to our local area, it seems immensely unfair that residents in our communities have no say in these matters. For most of us, our homes and properties are a major part of our financial assets. The decrease in our property values will cause a large loss to our financial security. At the very least, setback distances must be mandated to what the manufacturers of wind turbines say is safe in case of fires or during thunderstorms. As our individual research uncovers more and more facts about the construction and operation of these "green energy" sources, it becomes clear that developers of these projects should have to be more open with information early in the process so that local residents have a clearer understanding of what impact they are facing on their daily lives and their future circumstances.

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