

Testimony of Chris and Danielle Zeman
Seneca County, Ohio
In support of SB-52
Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
March 9, 2021

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Schuring, ranking member Williams, members of the committee, we write as proponents of SB-52.

My wife and I strongly support and urge the passing of SB 52 which allows local residents the right to a voice in the development of renewable energy projects, specifically wind and solar, in rural areas across Ohio.

Why are these bills important? Currently the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) is the single entity in the State that has the decision making power to approve, restrict, or deny these projects- and all without the public being given the opportunity to have a voice through the power of a vote. It is undeniable Ohio's population is growing, and several of these people are moving into rural areas where they have privacy and open landscapes to enjoy. In addition, as cities become more populated, Ohio's rural areas are slowly seeing an increase in development that to some extent is creating a "suburb of sorts" with these areas often located outside of major cities.

With this being said, I believe the State needs to take a hard look at the social dynamics of its rural areas and thus enact legislation that will support everyone, through a voice, on whether or not to proceed with the development of wind or solar projects. At the end of the day, this is the only way township residents can get a choice, instead of the OPSB making it for them, and thus let the community decide whether or not a wind or solar project is right for them.

Respectfully,

Chris & Danielle Zeman
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