

As an instructor of solar and wind technologies at Zane State College in Zanesville, I write in OPPOSITION to the proposed SB 52.

At least weekly I receive calls from solar developers asking for the contact details of our students to recruit them for employment. Recently there have been a number of large utility-scale solar developers seeking to recruit, train, and hire hundreds of installers for high-paying jobs here in Ohio, jobs that will employ people locally for many years on a single project.

Ohio is uniquely sited as a hub for utility-scale solar and wind as we sit at a crossroad of existing transmission lines that service the major population centers of the United States. As our grid system evolves and expands over the coming decades, Ohio could be poised to become a major renewable energy center – employing tens of thousands in a new Silicon-Valley of energy.

Or measures such as SB 52 could drive this economic engine out of state.

Renewable energy will transform our economy over the next several decades in ways we cannot even imagine – similarly to how the micro computer and the Internet changed society and our economy over the last several decades. This will happen.

It can happen here in Ohio – or it can happen elsewhere. My students will get high-paying jobs. I would just like to see those jobs located here in Ohio.

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