

I am providing written testimony in opposition to SB52. I have been a resident of Columbus, OH for 27 years and do not want to see the state go backward in efforts to increase renewable energy sources. If it is passed, this bill will put Ohio far behind other states in the development of new energy jobs and it will severely limit the growth of new business opportunities. We cannot afford to lose out on attracting new businesses to our state: this bill will hinder our progress toward creating new jobs and securing our renewable energy future.

Although, on its face, the “township-by-township” referendum proposed under this bill appears to give voice to local communities to decide on the location of renewable energy sites, in fact, it would allow a tiny minority of citizens to completely shut down a project that had already been approved through an extensive review process, one that would include an open public comment period. Also, by artificially restricting one energy supply source, the bill will drive up electricity costs and hurt the average consumer. Ultimately, passage of SB52 will deter the development of new energy infrastructure projects and thus put a damper on the growth of innovative businesses. This can only hurt rural Ohioans who significantly benefit from the economic opportunities provided by the development of solar and wind projects and urban Ohioans who seek lower electricity costs and green, renewable energy alternatives.

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