

Testimony for the March 23 hearing on SB 52.

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I am writing to oppose SB 52. This bill will destroy the renewable energy future of Ohio. If this bill becomes law, no reasonable renewable energy company will be willing to invest in planning an Ohio project that could be cancelled at the last minute by a small number of citizens.

Using the cover of "Local Control" is disingenuous. No other infra-structure projects can be cancelled by a referendum after gaining approval from the appropriate state-wide regulators. This is clearly an attempt by the fossil fuel industry to eliminate competition. It reminds me of the dirty methods used to pass HB 6 in 2019 - the "nuclear bail-out" bill.

Renewable energy is coming, and it will create jobs and tax revenue for local governments and schools. Does Ohio want to become part of this economic growth or do you want to drive it elsewhere?

Twenty years ago Ohio was a national leader in the development of wind energy systems. The excessive set-back requirement that became law in 2014 hurt Ohio and other states were able to capitalize on that. Further damage was done in 2019 by HB 6.

I live in a city that has passed a renewable energy aggregation plan. Other cities have done the same. But our money goes to buy RECs out of state because of Ohio's backward energy policies. Wouldn't it be better if Ohio consumers could buy local RECs?