

**Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee**  
**May 19, 2021**  
**Written Proponent Testimony**  
**John Clippinger – Preble County**

Chairman McColley, Vice Chairman Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Committee. I am writing to show my support of Senate Bill 52. I am a full-time farmer and my livelihood depends on the income from our farm.

Currently, there is a 1,000-acre solar facility proposed to be built adjacent to my land. I am concerned that building this facility will affect the productivity of my land and I will no longer be able to make a decent living solely by farming.

I'm concerned that the construction of the facility will disturb the drainage tile on the facility site and, as a result, neighboring farms will become flooded. To see if construction would increase flooding, I drove to Hardin County last month to look at the solar facility there. Yes, flooding due to broken tile was evident and flooding onto neighboring fields was apparent. I've included some photos of my findings.

A few months ago, I was telling my situation to family friends who live in Randolph County, Indiana. Interestingly, they had a similar situation when a wind farm was proposed to be built behind their house. Since they live in Indiana, they and their neighbors voted on the proposed wind farm. When I explained that a siting board in Columbus made land use decisions for local communities, they were dumbfounded.

In Ohio, local residents and local officials should have control of land use in their communities, just like residents of surrounding states have. Senate Bill 52 gives a voice to local communities. That's why I support this bill.

Sincerely,  
John Clippinger  
Gasper Township  
Preble County