

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

SB 52 and HB 118
Adrian Whetstone
May 17, 2021

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the committee. My name is Adrian Whetstone and I reside in Union Township, Auglaize County. I am writing in support of SB 52 and HB 118.

On February 12, 2021 I become aware of a proposed project by Moonwalk Energy¹ in Auglaize County. The proposed project affects Clay, Goshen, Wayne, and Union Township. This proposed Wind and Solar project is up to 200-300 MV Wind capacity including 50-100 Wind Turbines and a Solar Facility up to 100 MV. The four townships have a combined population of 5,182 from the 2019 Census² and have a combined total of 111.1 square miles³ in the townships. That is 46.46 people per square mile that this project affects.

After speaking with several neighbors, friends, and family we realized so many others in the community were unaware as well. The larger landowners were notified in November 2020 if not before. We learned that the lack of input from the townships to decide what is best for the community as a whole is non-existent. A handful of landowners will be deciding what is best for the whole community. I created a community awareness group to spread awareness and educate ourselves on the process of these proposed projects. Our FB Group Auglaize Townships United currently has 1060 members in about three months time. We as a community are united and believe we want our voices heard.

Township Trustees have their finger on the pulse of their constituents and know what best works for their Townships. I believe local Townships should have the right to decide if this is the best fit for the community. I do not think that the Ohio Power Siting Board should bypass the Townships and the County. Senate Bill 52 and HB 118 is a very fair bill that will give local control back to the community.

Our homes are in a residential/agricultural rural setting and we bought our homes for that very reason. Our property values will decrease due to the proposed project converting the community into more of an industrial area. The amount of Prime farmland in our county will be lost at an alarming rate. I am very concerned about our quality of life being affected in such close proximity to Wind/ Solar Fields.

In closing I want to Thank you for allowing me time to write my testimony and I fully support SB 52 and HB 118. I encourage you to support these bills and let the decision be far to all involved.

Sincerely,

Adrian M. Whetstone

¹ MoonWalk Energy <https://development.ohio.gov/files/research/P5027.pdf>

² Population in Auglaize County by Townships <https://development.ohio.gov/files/research/P5027.pdf>

³ Square Miles Information https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auglaize_County,_Ohio