

# PROPONENT TESTIMONY

Sub. SB 52

William Wendling (Defiance County)

May 16, 2021

I am writing this letter because of my concerns for the proposed solar project in Delaware Township in Defiance County. This project is known as the Cepheus project being developed by 7X energy.

My wife and I own several hundred acres on each side of the planned substation that is centered in this project. We have been approached by four different solar companies about leasing our property. So I am not writing this because of sour grapes that we would not have financial gain if this project were to go to completion. We could have participated if we had chosen to.

It did not take long for us to realize the deception and misleading tactics used by the 7X company to pressure landowners into signing leases. The majority of the community had no idea this had been going on for the past two years because of 7X's intent to keep the project silent to avoid public opposition. 7X's representative used deception to pit neighbors against one another, falsely claiming landowners had signed up for the project when they had not. They went as far as picturing a photo of one of my farms as the main heading on their website. This is dishonest and implies that this land is in the project when it is in fact not.

This is not how I do business and I would like to think that the rest of Ohio feels the same way. That is why SB52 is necessary to give back control to local governments so citizens can voice their concerns and have a say in property value, wildlife, the environment, and life as we know it.