

Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation

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To: Ohio Senate – Energy & Public Utilities Committee
From: Matthew A. Szollosi
Date: 5.19.21

Re: SB 52

Chairman McColley / Vice-Chair Schuring / Ranking Member Williams:

Please be advised that the Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation (“ACT Ohio”) is a 501(c)(5) organization created by the Ohio State Building & Construction Trades Council to encourage economic and industrial development opportunities, and to facilitate utilization of industry-best practices for Ohio’s public and private construction. For the reasons that follow, I offer this testimony as our organization’s opposition to SB 52 in its current format.

ACT Ohio has long maintained an “all of the above” strategy with respect to energy generation in the State of Ohio, including coal, solar, wind, natural gas and nuclear power. At more than 80 state-of-the-art training facilities across the state, Building Trades apprentices are acquiring the knowledge and skills to produce the high-quality craftsmanship necessary to support every facet of energy production in Ohio. These state-of-the-art apprenticeship training centers are all 100% privately funded through employer contributions and member deductions. (The total taxpayer investment in Building Trades apprenticeship training programs is \$0).

Please let me be clear: We have profound respect for all of our customers, investors and colleagues in every sector of the power generation market in Ohio. We appreciate every past, present and future opportunity to work on combined cycle natural gas burners, the nuclear power facilities, wind turbines, in addition to the solar power facilities referenced below. Our apprenticeship training in many instances is specifically geared towards the latest most cutting-edge technologies so that investors can rest assured we can build anything they plan for.

Our primary interest with regard to SB 52 is directly on the jobs that the solar power generation industry provides our members and their families on an annual basis.

With regard to Ohio’s solar power generation policy, the state’s PILOT program incentivizes job creation for Ohio residents by offering beneficial property tax treatment to developers in exchange for commitments to hire Ohio residents. Many of these full-time workers belong to the Building Trades earning strong wages and competitive benefits. Simply put, the State of Ohio “got it right” by putting the PILOT program in place.

I have attached information from the Ohio Power Siting Board identifying 2 categories of solar development projects: *Approved Solar Facilities* and *Pending and Pre-application Solar Facilities*. At a glance, the Ohio Power Siting Board has approved 12 projects totaling 2046.6 megawatts of power. The *Pending* information shows an additional 25 projects totaling 4,451.9 megawatts of power on projects in the pre-application phase or pending approval.

To give you some scale, we estimate anywhere from 800,000 to 1,000,000 work hours for every 200mw of power produced on these solar developments. Applying this calculus to the pending project list, we are discussing between 16-20 million work hours for Ohio's Building Trades workforce over the next several years, particularly in rural counties where so many of our members reside and need the work. These hours are very meaningful to our members and their families.

The provisions of SB 52 as it currently stands potentially puts the projects on the *Pending* list at risk. By adding a township-level veto process for approval, many of these projects could simply look to other states where the business climate for their investment dollar is more inviting. It simply inserts too much risk into the equation, and would result in a scatter-shot approach to solar development that would result in the disintegration of the momentum we currently have due the PILOT program as well as demand from end users for this type of power.

For these reasons, we oppose SB 52 in its current form and urge the committee to find more common ground to address the concerns of proponents while not putting these projects, and the millions of workhours for our members, at risk.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

Sincerely,

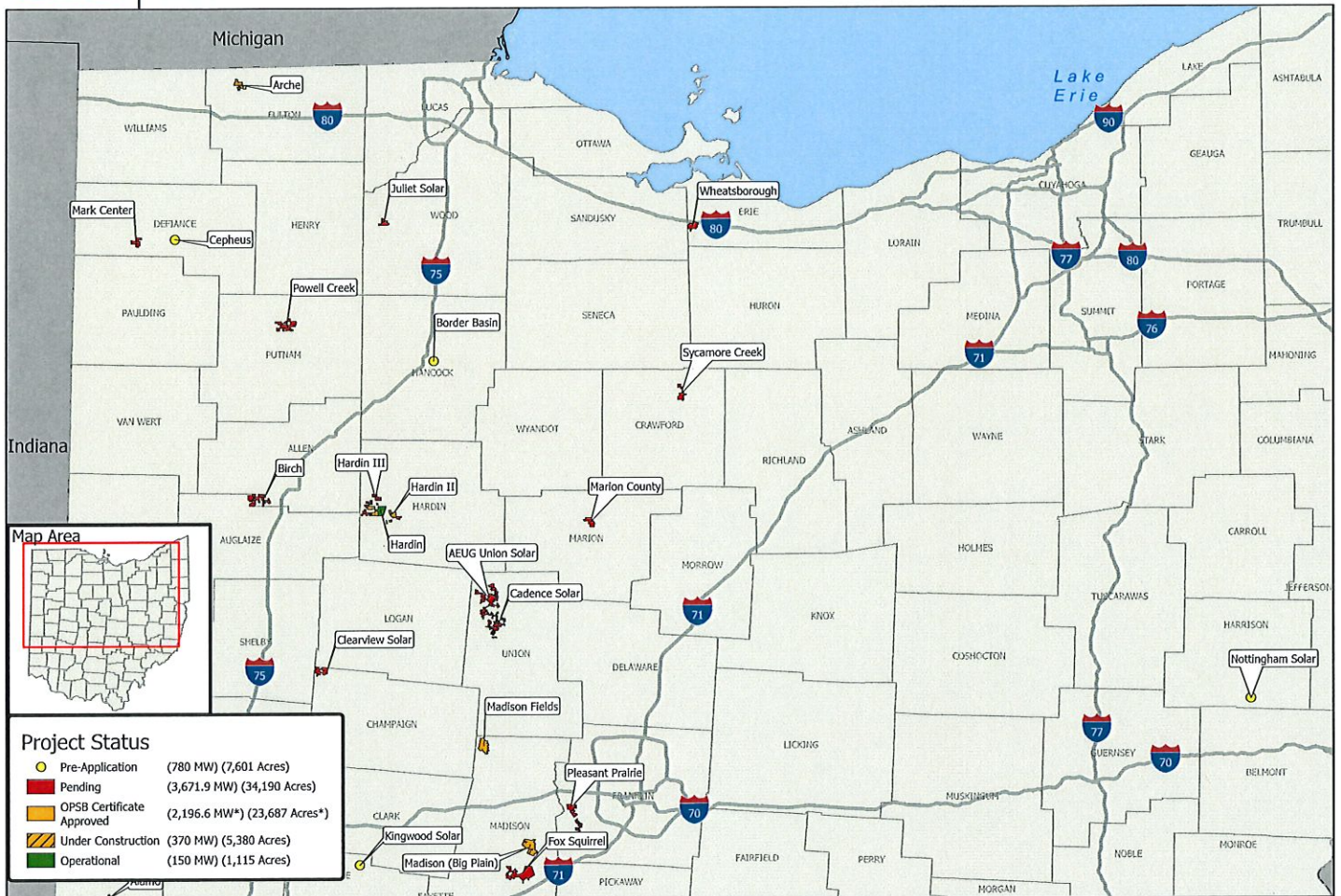


Matthew A. Szollosi



Notes: Project locations are provided by applicants. Case and construction status is determined by the case filings. The nameplate capacity shown is the maximum capacity that could be built based on the number of approved photovoltaic panels and the highest nameplate capacity of the approved panel models.

*Pre-Application project locations, capacity, and acreage may be approximated. Acreage for Cepheus not yet available.
 **OPSB Certificate Approved MW and acreage values include "Under Construction" and "Operational" MW and acreage values.



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Operational Solar		Approved Solar		Potential Solar (Pending and Pre-application)	
Approved MW:	150	Approved MW:	2,046.6	Potential MW:	4,451.9
Operational Solar Facilities (50 MW or greater)					
Case Number	Related Cases	Project Name	Operational Date	County	MW
17-0773-EL-BGN	NA	Hardin I	2/5/21	Hardin	150
				TOTALS:	150
Approved Solar Facilities (50 MW or greater)					
Case Number	Related Cases	Project Name	Approval Date	County	MW
17-0774-EL-BGN	NA	Vinton	9/20/18	Vinton	125
17-1152-EL-BGN	NA	Hillcrest*	2/15/18 2/21/19	Brown	200
18-1024-EL-BGN	NA	Willowbrook I	9/17/18	Brown, Highland	150
18-1334-EL-BGN	NA	Highland	5/16/19	Highland	300
18-1360-EL-BGN	NA	Hardin II*	5/16/19 1/21/21	Hardin	170
18-1546-EL-BGN	NA	Nestlewood	4/16/20	Brown, Clermont	80
19-1823-EL-BGN	NA	Madison	3/18/21	Madison	196
19-1880-EL-BGN	NA	Atlanta Farms	12/22/20	Pickaway	199.6
19-1881-EL-BGN	NA	Madison Fields	1/21/21	Madison	180
20-0972-EL-BGN	NA	Yellowbud	2/18/21	Pickaway, Ross	274
20-1288-EL-BGN	NA	New Market	3/18/21	Highland	65
20-0979-EL-BGN	NA	Arche	4/15/21	Fulton	107
*under construction				TOTALS:	2,046.6
Pending and Pre-application Solar Facilities (50 MW or greater)					
Case Number	Project Name	Filing Date	County	MW	
18-1578-EL-BGN	Alamo	12/10/18	Preble	69.9	
18-1579-EL-BGN	Angelina	12/3/18	Preble	80	
20-1084-EL-BGN	Powell Creek	10/7/20	Putnam	150	
20-0931-EL-BGN	Fox Squirrel	10/14/20	Madison	577	
20-1362-EL-BGN	Clearview	12/18/20	Champaign	144	
20-1380-EL-BGN	Ross County	10/30/20	Ross	120	
20-1405-EL-BGN	Union County	12/24/20	Union	325	
20-1529-EL-BGN	Wheatsborough	2/11/21	Erie	125	
20-1605-EL-BGN	Birch	2/12/21	Allen, Auglaize	300	
20-1612-EL-BGN	Mark Center	12/18/20	Defiance	110	
20-1677-EL-BGN	Cadence	2/1/21	Union	275	
20-1678-EL-BGN	Hardin III	2/11/21	Hardin	300	
20-1679-EL-BGN	Pleasant Prairie	2/19/21	Franklin	250	
20-1680-EL-BGN	Yellow Wood	2/24/21	Clinton	300	
20-1757-EL-BGN	Union Ridge	3/26/20	Licking	108	
20-1760-EL-BGN	Juliet	3/12/21	Wood	101	
20-1762-EL-BGN	Sycamore Creek	2/12/21	Crawford	117	
20-1814-EL-BGN	Dodson Creek	pre-application	Highland	117	
21-0004-EL-BGN	Tymochtee	4/29/2021	Wyandot	120	
21-0036-EL-BGN	Marion County	3/5/21	Marion	100	
21-0041-EL-BGN	Palomino	pre-application	Highland	200	
21-0117-EL-BGN	Kingwood	pre-application	Greene	175	
21-0270-EL-BGN	Nottingham	pre-application	Harrison	100	
21-0277-EL-BGN	Border Basin	pre-application	Hancock	120	
21-0293-EL-BGN	Cepheus	pre-application	Defiance	68	
				TOTALS:	4,451.9