

Testimony for May 25, 2021 against SB 52

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to speak against Senate Bill 52. The recent revision does nothing to address the investment and job-killing consequences of this bill. Allowing completely unqualified persons to overturn the decisions of the experts on the Ohio Power Siting Board makes absolutely no sense.

The bureaucratic hurdles that potential wind and solar projects must already go through are substantial. Adding more would make Ohio even less competitive than it already is. In 2019 Ohio was 48th in the nation – behind all our neighboring states. Since wind and solar generated energy are now economically competitive with fossil-fuel generation, cutting Ohio out of the renewable market will hurt consumers, jobs and tax revenue.

The Assembly's blatant attempts to protect fossil-fuel utilities from competition hurts everyone. And it's futile. Newer, better technology always overcomes older technology. No one tried to protect typewriter manufacturers from competition by personal computers!

And the irony of holding hearings on SB 52 in the same session as substitute SB 201 is overwhelming. SB 52 pretends it's about "local control" and SB 201 bans "local control". Clearly "local control" is not the issue! Both bills attempt to "tip the scales" against renewable energy.

This bill clearly needs more work. If more local input is desired than amend the siting procedures. If you really want to increase "local control" then you need to include ALL energy projects – gas pipelines, cell towers, fracking etc. And then you will need to reject SB201 and its favoritism.

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