



**Opposition Testimony on HB118 – Revise Certain Wind Farm/Solar Facility Laws
House Public Utilities Committee
Alan R. Rosenfield, ScD FASM
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Chairman Hoops, Vice-Chairman Ray, and Ranking Member Smith: Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Alan Rosenfield, energy and environmental specialist for the League of Women Voters of Ohio.

LWVO is strongly opposed to Senate Bill 52. Over the past ten years our General Assembly has waged a relentless war against renewable energy, and have succeeded. Because of restraints enacted into law Ohio is near, or at, the bottom of states in wind and solar energy production. SB52 is just the latest bill in a campaign to prevent wind and solar farms from being constructed in Ohio. Today is the sixteenth time that we have submitted testimony against bills that have been introduced with the objective of throwing roadblocks in the path of renewable energy. Over that period we have presented detailed analysis that renewable energy neither increases electricity rates nor unemployment.

High costs have led to the closure of coal plants. Once self-sufficient, Ohio now imports electricity. Power-plant jobs and taxes are going out of state. The war against renewables is costing Ohioans money.

The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet, and that an interrelated approach to combating climate change—including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources—is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem.

SB52 only adds more regulation to the approval process for wind farms. Our opposition is also based on the fact that there are good reasons to support renewable energy. Wind and solar are now the least expensive sources of electricity, and do not pollute. We are losing the added benefit of clean air.

It is difficult to see how this bill benefits typical Ohioans.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio was formed in May 1920 out of Ohio's woman suffrage movement. The League is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League has over 4000 members and 32 local Leagues across the Buckeye State.