



March 22, 2021 | Submitted Electronically

Representative James M. Hoops
Chair, Public Utilities Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Representative Sharon A. Ray
Vice Chair, Public Utilities Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Representative Kent Smith
Ranking Member, Public Utilities Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 52 and House Bill 118

Dear Chair Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Public Utilities:

I am writing on behalf of Ceres, a national sustainability nonprofit, to express **opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 52 and House Bill (HB) 118**, which would establish new restrictions on renewable energy development in the state by enabling local referendums on certain future and pending wind and solar certificate applications and expanding setback requirements for wind turbines. Ceres works with influential companies and investors to advocate for strong climate, clean energy, and clean transportation policies. Ceres leads the [BICEP \(Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy\) Network](#), a coalition of over 70 major U.S. companies, many of whom are headquartered or have significant operations in Ohio.

The companies we work with understand firsthand how state energy policies affect the cost of doing business and Ohio's economic competitiveness. Renewable energy, including wind and solar, provides significant economic opportunities for local communities and the state. Now more than ever, as Ohio businesses navigate a shifting economy and public health crisis in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses need continued access to and certainty for the siting of low-cost and clean renewable energy projects.

Renewable energy, including wind and solar, helps companies cut energy costs, avoid the volatility of traditional fossil-fuel energy resources, and stay competitive. That is why a [growing number](#) of Fortune 500 companies have set goals to power their facilities and operations through investments in renewable energy. Corporate buyers are responsible for more than [30 gigawatts](#) (GW) of new renewable energy in the U.S. over the past five years. In 2020 alone, corporate renewable procurements in the U.S. topped 10.6 GW of capacity, [roughly equal](#) to Ohio's total net electricity generation. Clean and renewable energy makes sense for a business' bottom line while meeting the needs of customers, employees, and investors.



Ceres

Sustainability is the bottom line.

Ohio has significant wind and solar resource potential, and clean energy developers need a positive signal from Ohio lawmakers to bring their investments to the state and deliver cost-competitive renewable energy resources to Ohio companies and utilities. By creating a new layer of burdensome regulation only applicable to these two forms of energy, SB 52 and HB 118 would threaten to discourage billions in potential investments. As you consider acting on these bills, we encourage you to take into account the significant corporate demand for clean energy and the opportunities for new investment, job creation, and local tax revenues for communities across Ohio where wind and solar energy projects could be located.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/

Deana Dennis

Sr. Manager, State Policy

Ceres