

To the House Energy and Public Utilities Committee:

I am writing you today in opposition to House Bill 118.

HB 118 would violate the rights of landowners, and would establish a dangerous precedent in the siting of buildings and facilities. By voting against this bill, the Ohio General Assembly would protect our state's citizens and economy from government overreach.

The right to do what one sees fit with one's own property is an inalienable right, granted not only by the Creator but also protected by the Constitution. This bill would put those rights on the ballot for others to dictate how the landowner uses his/her own property. Not only does this infringe on the liberty of the landowners, but it also hampers their ability to do what is best for their families.

From a business perspective, this bill establishes a dangerous precedent. Calls to put even more landowner rights on the ballot have already been heard in response to this bill. If we start with wind turbines and solar panels, where exactly does it end? Should neighbors get to deny a farmer's plans to build a hog or chicken farm? Should my neighbor get to remove my ability to build a garage on my property? That would decimate investment in Ohio, killing growth and pushing our businesses and citizens to move where there are fewer restrictions and more opportunities.

Both the intended and unintended consequences of this bill will harm Ohioans. From infringing upon the property rights of landowners to harming our economy, this bill will be a net loss for our state.

Sincerely,

Ellen C Christian