

Opposition Testimony
Senate Bill 52 and House Bill 118
March 23, 2021
Mark S. Crowe

Members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for your consideration. My name is Mark Crowe and I am opposed to Senate Bill 52 and House Bill 118 because I believe they infringe on my personal property rights and will negatively impact Ohio's economy.

I have lived in Hillsboro since I was a child and love my community. I am the CEO of Crowe Financial Group and Crowe farms. I didn't inherit this land—I paid for all 700 acres—where I grow soybeans and turn 15,000 head of hogs annually.

I am also a landowner in a solar project and proud to use my land in a way that will benefit our community for years to come. There is a significant amount of tax revenue associated with solar projects, with the majority of the revenue benefiting our local schools. It is very hard to find new revenues for schools and local governments in rural communities. My land will be more productive for my family and my community than its current use.

Creating a solar farm allows for soils to rest—just like a conservation easement. At the end of the useful life of the facility, my land can go back into agricultural production if that's what we want. The land never leaves our family. It is a long-term lease, but I continue to own the land.

Lastly, I believe that Ohio is sending an anti-business message to companies looking at Ohio. SB 52 and HB 118 would destroy Ohio's ability to grow and attract jobs. The retroactive nature of this bill says that you can spend millions in Ohio to develop a project and then the rules of the game will be changed in the middle, or even towards the end of your process. And at the same time, completely infringing on my rights as a landowner.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns about SB 52 and HB 118 and I encourage this committee to not act on these bills.