



Opponent Testimony of House Bill 118
Mikayla Pieper
Paulding Chamber of Commerce
House Public Utilities Committee
March 23, 2021

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer opponent testimony on House Bill 118. My name is Mikayla Pieper, Executive Director of the Paulding Chamber of Commerce.

The Paulding Chamber is dedicated to the economic health and vitality of Paulding County and the entire northwest Ohio region. We are committed to working with the business community, educators, and government to establish the best possible business environment.

As you may know, Paulding County has experienced like no other county in the state, the tremendous benefits of wind development. The PILOT payments are the #1 tax revenue resource in Paulding County, providing an impressive new revenue for our schools, new income for area landowners and new revenues for local businesses who supply goods and services to the renewable energy companies. In addition, wind energy has brought hundreds of new, temporary jobs during the construction phase as well as permanent jobs with highly-paid, highly-trained staff.

Because of these benefits, clean energy development has been the No. 1 opportunity for economic growth in Paulding County.

You may wonder why the idea of a local vote would concern me. We're preparing right now to welcome solar development to Paulding County. **We're not done growing and encouraging clean energy investment in our county. We're not done investing in our children and building opportunities for our farmers to earn new income.** If you'll notice in my testimony, I attached a summary of the total PILOT revenues collected and projected from 2019-2021 as well as the projected PILOT revenues for a new solar project.

This is our opportunity to secure a recession-proof, resilient economy for years to come. Singling out renewable energy development with House Bill 118 imposes burdensome new red tape and will create a chilling effect on solar and wind investment that would likely act as a *de facto* ban. Especially when other energy generation resources do not face the same obstacles.



As Sarah E. Hunt, CEO of the Joseph Rainey Center for Public Policy shared about other similar legislative attempts: “What smart, innovative company will attempt to build new electricity infrastructure in Ohio, only to face a fatal referendum after millions have already been spent?”

Join me in opposing House Bill 118 and let’s not surrender the opportunity to grow our economy and welcome thousands of new jobs to our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and I’m happy to answer any questions.

Mikayla Pieper
Paulding Chamber of Commerce

Attachment: Paulding County, OH Wind & Solar PILOT Benefits

PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

WIND & SOLAR TAX BENEFITS

ANNUAL PILOT PAYMENTS TO PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO ENTITIES*

Taxing District	Year 2019, Collected 2020	Year 2020, Collected 2021	Total Revenue 2020 & 2021
Wayne Trace Local Schools	\$1,398,898.11	\$1,398,898.11	\$2,797,796.22
Paulding County General Fund, svc fee	\$474,450.00	\$474,450.00	\$948,900.00
Vantage Career Center JVS	\$234,729.28	\$234,729.28	\$469,458.56
Paulding County MRDD	\$224,296.87	\$224,296.87	\$448,593.74
Antwerp Local Schools	\$192,497.61	\$192,497.61	\$384,995.22
Paulding County General Fund	\$166,918.65	\$166,918.65	\$333,837.30
Blue Creek Township	\$80,069.65	\$80,069.65	\$160,139.30
Paulding County Library	\$78,243.09	\$78,243.09	\$156,486.18
Paulding County Jail Operation	\$70,418.78	\$70,418.78	\$140,837.56
Benton Township	\$69,709.81	\$69,709.81	\$139,419.62
Harrison Township	\$63,456.89	\$63,456.89	\$126,913.78
Paulding County 911 System	\$56,022.04	\$56,022.04	\$112,044.08
Tri-County Mental Health Services	\$52,162.06	\$52,162.06	\$104,324.12
Paulding County Health Department	\$41,729.65	\$41,729.65	\$83,459.30
Latty Township	\$41,357.54	\$41,357.54	\$82,715.08
Paulding County Senior Center	\$26,081.03	\$26,081.03	\$52,162.06
Paulding County OSU Extension	\$13,040.51	\$13,040.51	\$26,081.02
Paulding County Hospital	\$11,997.26	\$11,997.26	\$23,994.52
Paulding County Jail	\$7,824.30	\$7,824.30	\$15,648.60
Antwerp Village	\$1,287.49	\$1,287.49	\$2,998.08
Paulding Exempted Village Schools	\$211.55	\$211.55	\$423.10
Paulding Village	\$147.52	\$147.52	\$295.04
Paulding County Auditor Fee**	\$72,592.31	\$72,592.31	\$145,184.62
TOTAL	\$3,378,142.00	\$3,378,142.00	\$6,756,284.00

*These payments include the following projects: Timber Rd II (99.825MW/55 turbines), Blue Creek Wind (74MW/37 turbines), Timber Rd III (100.80MW/48 turbines), CMS (100MW/42 turbines), REA Solar (0.0583MW) and Antwerp Solar (0.6657MW).

**Fees including processing and making payments.



Timber Road Solar Park Estimated Annual Payments to Community

Taxing District	Estimated Local Revenue in Year 1	Estimated Total Local Revenue by 2052
Wayne Trace Local School	\$ 199,070	\$ 5,972,097
Commissioners' Fund - to be distributed at the discretion of Paulding County Commissioners	\$ 99,800	\$ 2,994,000
Harrison Township (including Road & Bridge, Cemetery, and Fire & Police)	\$ 35,395	\$ 1,061,846
Vantage Career Center Joint Vocational School (JVS)	\$ 27,084	\$ 812,523
Paulding County General Fund	\$ 26,172	\$ 785,161
Paulding County Jail	\$ 11,859	\$ 355,776
Paulding County Department of Developmental Disabilities (MRDD)	\$ 11,141	\$ 334,235
Paulding County 911 System	\$ 8,784	\$ 263,520
Paulding County Library	\$ 8,482	\$ 254,456
Paulding County OSU Extension	\$ 5,725	\$ 171,754
Paulding County Tri-County Mental Health Services	\$ 5,675	\$ 170,236
Paulding County Senior Center	\$ 4,089	\$ 122,681
Paulding County Health Department	\$ 3,943	\$ 118,281
Paulding County Hospital	\$ 1,881	\$ 56,433
Total	\$ 449,100	\$ 13,473,000

These revenue estimates are calculated using the 2020 tax levy rates in Harrison Township, Paulding County, OH. The calculations are based on PILOT payments of \$7,000/MW/year to the local Taxing Districts and \$2,000/MW/year to the Commissioners' Fund, with a proposed project size of 49.9 MW.