



*Working together for Ohio farmers to advance
agriculture and strengthen our communities.*

March 22, 2021

The Honorable James Hoops, Chair
House Public Utilities Committee
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Hoops,

Farm Bureau appreciates the House Public Utilities Committee's work on HB 118. This is a complicated issue of landowner rights and local public interest in regard to wind and solar development.

Farm Bureau recognizes that this is a passionate topic for many people and appreciates that lawmakers are considering many perspectives. In the spirit of that appreciation, we are working in good faith to find a solution that aligns with Farm Bureau policy while increasing local involvement in the siting process. We will continue to work with members of the House and Senate through the interested party process to that end.

Out of respect for that process, we will not be formally testifying on HB 118 at this week's scheduled hearing. However, please know, absent changes to the bill, Farm Bureau would be an opponent of the legislation in its current form.

Our hope is that we can find a solution that addresses local involvement without setting a dangerous precedent of subjecting development on private property to local referenda.

Respectfully,

Jenna Reese
Director of State Policy
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

Cc: Vice Chair Ray
Ranking Member Smith
Rep. Stein
Rep. Riedel
Pat Tully