

**Written Testimony of Rob Howell**  
**Putnam County, OH**  
**SB 52 and HB 118 Opponent Testimony**  
**Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee**  
**House Public Utilities Committee**  
**March 23, 2021**

Chairmen and members of the committee, I am writing today to express my concern with SB 52 and HB 118.

To introduce myself: my name is Rob Howell, and I am a farmer, Putnam County resident, and Monroe Township Trustee. Renewable energy projects offer incredible benefits for our community that we simply cannot afford to miss out on. For that reason, I stand in opposition to Senate Bill 52 and House Bill 118.

For many farmers, land lease payments from wind or solar projects are a definite help in what has become a very tough climate for farming. You simply can't make that kind of money from growing crops, and not with such certainty. Further, this is a matter of respecting property rights. Within reason, you should be able to do what you want with your own land. Hosting a wind or solar project on your land which benefits your own family and brings tax dollars to the entire community certainly seems reasonable within our rights.

Wind and solar projects don't just help the farmers and landowners who have projects leases, but also help everyone who lives in the area by way of tax dollars. For many small rural townships like Monroe, state funding cuts over the years have left our budgets sorely lacking, pushing us to look for new sources of revenue generation. Tax dollars from wind and solar projects bring with them substantial tax revenue, helping to fund school districts, fix old and crumbling roads, and so much more.

Additionally, as Ohio has taken steps to reduce coal usage, it seems rather shortsighted to think that would be feasible without also bringing wind and solar projects online to meet our energy needs. Ohio needs new power sources, and solar and wind can provide that.

I would like the Committee to understand that if we had an issue with the approval process for these projects we would have said so, but we haven't found a single issue with it. These projects are beneficial for our communities, but this legislation would ruin all that.

Thank you for your time. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony to the committee today.

My Best,  
Rob Howell  
Monroe Township Trustee