

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 throughout the State of Ohio, and it would set a dangerous precedent in the siting of buildings and facilities. By voting against this bill, the Ohio General Assembly can protect our state's citizens and its 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. Property rights belong to the individual that owns the land, not the rest of the residents of a township. The rest of the township should not have the ability to determine how to best use their neighbors' property. This bill will stand in the way of landowners doing what is best for their own families. It would force them to ask their neighbors if they're allowed to provide for themselves and their families.

From an economic 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 we allow established businesses to prevent up-and-comers from constructing a building? This bill has the potential for heavy abuse. There will always be people who dislike something that a neighbor wants to build. If this bill goes through, there will be more like it for other industries. This 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 would be a net loss for our state.

Sincerely,

Taylor Christian