



March 23, 2021

The Honorable Jim Hoops  
Chairman  
House Public Utilities Committee  
One Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman Hoops and committee members:

On behalf of American Electric Power (AEP), I am writing to express our opposition to the current version of House Bill 118 (HB 118). AEP operates in 11 states, including in Ohio where we have our headquarters in Columbus, 1.5 million customers and 6,500 employees.

Ohio law currently provides the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) with exclusive, statewide jurisdiction over siting major utility facilities in the state. The OPSB process is rigorous, intensive and open to all with an interest in the siting of projects. Turning away from this statewide approach to siting would inject massive uncertainty into the power generation sector and put Ohio at a disadvantage for attracting capital investment into the state.

AEP has focused on bringing more renewable energy resources into our portfolio throughout our business footprint for the last several years. The company also plans to expand its generation portfolio and add renewable sources through our regulated business and other agreements. AEP customers are increasingly seeking renewable energy sources for their electricity supply and we are witnessing large communities harness their buying power to drive investments in renewable energy. This development is critical to ensuring Ohio benefits from having generating resources in this state

If HB 118 becomes law as currently drafted, all of this development is in peril. The company expects a negative impact on our investment in the state that approaches \$150 million over the next decade. We estimate that Ohio loses \$1.5 million per MW of wind and \$1 million per MW of solar that is lost due to overly restricting siting requirements.

AEP supports an inclusive, statewide siting process that addresses the concerns of neighboring communities and residents. Unfortunately, the current version of HB 118 falls short of this standard and we oppose the bill. We look forward to working with the committee members to ensure Ohio remains open for investment in electric generating facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Froehle", is written in a cursive style.

Tom Froehle  
Vice President, External Affairs  
American Electric Power