

To Chairman Hoops and the House Public Utilities Committee,

As a 6th generation member of my family to be born, raised, and settled in Groton Township, Erie County I am very concerned about the future of our rural communities and small towns. We currently have both a wind and solar project before the OPSB for our township, as well as an additional 3 wind projects in the adjacent counties and townships! If all of these projects go through, our township will be literally surrounded 360 degrees by 655 foot turbines (the largest in the United States) and almost 1,000 acres of solar panels!

The wind company began signing up leaseholders for the turbine project back in 2008, but because of gag orders in these contracts, we, the citizens of the townships involved, were not informed until 2018!

This is why we need SB 52! There is absolutely no transparency in the process right now! Even though our local rural communities have made it very clear that we are opposed to the projects, our voice carries absolutely no weight. Even the Erie County Commissioners, voting 3-0 against the project and PILOT, means nothing in the current OPSB process.

The Bellevue area, along with townships to the south and north, sit atop the Bellevue/Castalia Karst Plain. This bedrock topography, according to extensive research performed by The ODNR Division of Geological Survey, is not only unique, but is very unstable because it consists of

- The largest sinkholes in the state by perimeter, volume, area, and axis...
- More than 1,000 verified sinkholes
- Highly developed "sinks" because of the ancient lakes and underlain gypsum evaporates
- Increased bedrock fracturing from multiple glacial events
- Higher dissolution activity and merging of sinks that create larger sinks than other areas
- Less than 20 feet of glacial drift or none at all which..."**makes this area prime for karst development.**"

There is no way that the OPSB would have intimate knowledge of our region like we and our elected Township Trustees and County Commissioners have. This is another crucial reason why we need SB 52. We are the ones that know of the critical areas that need to be protected. Only by having local control and a local voice on the OPSB, can we ensure the safety, well-being, and future for our local, rural communities!

I implore you to please support SB 52! Time is of the essence! If this bill is not enacted immediately, many more rural communities and small towns like mine will be literally inundated with Industrial complexes that are just waiting in the shadows.

Respectfully,

Krista Beck