

House Public Utilities Committee
PROPONENT TESTIMONY SB 52
Ann Fisher (Auglaize County – Logan Township)
June 22, 2021

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith and members of the Committee.

My name is ANN FISHER residing in Auglaize County with my husband CHRISTOPHER FISHER. We are in support of the revised SB52. My husband and I have lived in Ohio our entire lives and at our residence for 34 years. I am a software consultant very well aware of need for change.

I am not writing this testimonial on our own behalf although we are residents who will be adversely impacted surrounded on 4 sides by 10-12 foot high massive acreage for as far as the eye can see of glass, lead, and aluminum as we were looking forward to our golden years in the bucolic setting we had built. And surely we're not happy to hear of this and other industrial scale solar/wind power plants storming the countryside of Ohio. We understood that there were possibilities over the years that things could be built on land surrounding us and that was the right of the land owned by those landowners. This isn't just an annoyance, a housing development, a pole barn, a chicken coop, a pig farm.

This is NOT a "not in my backyard" testimony. My testimony IS NOT about us. This is about the effect of 1,000s to 10,000s of acres of Industrial Scale Solar/Wind Power Plants a footprint for an intermittent at best energy source for public utility use, like no other, that is impacting thousands of county/township residents without local placement. We are indeed just 1 of the 1000s of affected residents in and near proposed footprints that solar/wind encompass, 2,500 acres of land, 40+ miles of fencing with 3/4 million glass aluminum cadmium lead solar panels surrounding some residences on all 4 sides within only 300 feet from the CENTER OF THEIR HOMES, that's right, CENTER not property lines; 22+ miles of access roadways, 95 inverters the size of semi-trucks, gravel roadways impacting the soil for 35 – 40 years to ever be returned to its natural state.

There are hundreds of these stories across Ohio - a young couple with a 2-year-old who purchased their 7 acre "dream" home two years ago to raise their son, but now to have the safety of his family at question being completely engulfed on all 4 sides. Or the young couple surrounded on 3 sides with a gravel access roadway 150 feet from their property line where their little girl plays on her swing set, where trucks will be speeding up and down it where once deer would gather to be seen by their little girl. And I wanted to cry harder for them than for me because my husband and I were them 34 years ago, and now will not be in our short future and let alone their long future ahead of them is unknown.

I don't think any of us are against the research for a cleaner better earth and for the benefit of the economics for Ohio. But why so fast, why so much, and why at the detriment of its Ohioans. Days into our notification well into years of the solar industrial power plant already being planned with testing and boring poles set in the fields as we were all unaware including officials, started inquiring and researching and within a month built a large portion of our currently approaching 1000 signatures on a petition against this encroachment. There must be something to it that we have so many signatures questioning this placement, if it were so good for our part of our county/township that in it already has a petro chemical plant and many thriving businesses in the ZONED area not in the agricultural planning area of the county/township?

Self-sustaining renewable solar/wind has its place, such as the solar fields in Wapak and Minster only taking up a couple hundred-acre swaths satisfying THOSE communities, the windmills for Whirlpool/Ball Plant in Findlay or Honda in Lakeview satisfying THOSE businesses, on homes, on industrial rooftops, on brown lands outside of the school district to satisfy that district. And I just read recently, Chase putting it on their own rooftops, right here in Columbus.

That is progress, that is technology at its finest, and that is research for the betterment of society without ripping the rug from underneath those that have no say.

2,500 – 5,000 – 10,000 acres of natural resources at a clip? Where does it stop? Why so fast? When this started and we got the notice, I thought we were the only ones impacted. I thought I could probably be ok with something like a Honda of Anna an industry that sits on 500 acres of land across from us because it will have employed 2800 people in 30 years. And that land and its placement will have been zoned and voted on by the county/township. But when I found out it was 2,500 acres, and it would only employ 5 people, and the county/township had no jurisdiction, I was appalled. So, understand that I am not here for just me – I am here for any future young residents who want to move to an area. They will not have a dream home to buy in the future with thousands of acres potentially without warning being covered with wind/solar where agricultural planning was expected. *So, I ask of you. Do you think it is fair that local county/townships have no voice. The local county/townships have the best interest of their communities both economically, ecologically, and environmentally.*

What is the difference if it was a Nuclear Plant or a Natural Gas Plant? The footprint of industrial solar/wind power plants on land use impacts the local communities at a rate not seen by other forms of energy. Ohio needs to make sure our rural communities are not left with the risk.

Is it good for business? Whose business? The foreign developer or private venture monolithic capitalist? Will there be long-term employment locally? Will there be viable local corporate business partner. This legislation is about giving the county/township the ability to ascertain that decision with proper placement; which is the only right thing to do since Industrial Scale Solar/Wind Power Plants transform a huge footprint and communities in a monumental way.

The language in this bill is fair and just. This bill provides a fair process for renewable energy ability to identify parts of Ohio who are willing to welcome such investment. Residents and businesses, other than wind/solar in this case, have had to comply with local zoning. This creates an unfair advantage for wind/solar that will consume thousands of acres of land, create minimal full time employment opportunities for local residents, while enjoying large tax credits.

County/townships and Residents in Ohio should be able to plan for their future based on knowing county/township land use policies without the fear of wind/solar industrial plants negating everything they worked hard to achieve. Where now will that young family move? Will their next 7 acres be surrounded by 4 sides of ¼ million solar glass or 600 feet high wind turbines? They will not know what county/township to move into.

I tried to not make this about me, but it is about us, what about us? This is also about you. Please do the right thing. I humbly request the efficient passage of this legislation and thank you for your time.