

Dear Senators,

I am writing this letter in support of SB52. I am a former business owner and public employee who has lived in Ohio for 59 years. Big business are taking advantage of the rural communities and changing the landscape and culture that everyone in the United States enjoys. People even pay to stay in rural communities on vacations to enjoy the outdoors, the rustic and natural landscape; however, if you do not put some guidelines down and allow the people to have a voice in where solar and wind projects are located, the natural landscape will soon become like the urban landscapes—metal towers or metal walls that will become a deterrent for visitors and eventually reduce the number of people who vacation in rural areas; therefore having a long-term financial impact on the economy. What the solar and wind projects generate will not be enough to compensate for the loss of the benefits of the natural landscape. The people living in areas where projects are proposed need to be able to participate in the decision that a project be placed in their neighborhood or not—big business and a few landowners do not have the communities best interest in mind or they would not propose to put the projects so close to highly populated rural areas. The dust bowl in the US and Canada was caused by people who wanted to profit and ignored the natural methods that Mother Nature uses to protect from massive destructive practices. They say it will not change the landscape; however, that is what urbanization projects also said—and now look at large cities and the massive change to the natural world. We need to have SB52 in place to protect the rights of all citizens, not just profiteers who want to make a lot of money.

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