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*Vice President, Manufacturing Operations,  
Laundry and Dishwashers, Whirlpool Corporation*

President  
**RYAN AUGSBURGER**



June 23, 2021

The Honorable Jim Hoops  
Chairman  
Public Utilities Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High St., 11th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

**RE: Senate Bill 52 – Written Opponent Testimony**

Dear Chairman Hoops:

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written opponent testimony on Senate Bill 52 (SB 52). SB 52 makes a variety of changes to Ohio's power siting process including new requirements at the local level and county determination on being available to develop certain renewable energy projects.

We have appreciated the sponsors' openness to feedback and the ability to have an open dialogue, however, concerns remain about removing the current statewide approach to siting certain generation projects. As we stated in our previous testimony on this issue, the development of both solar and wind power in Ohio -- as in other states -- has continued to increase over the past decade as companies and citizens demand sustainable and cleaner options for their electricity generation. Ohio's statewide approval process, managed by the Ohio Power Siting Board (Board), has been an effective mechanism to site such projects, weighing the pros and cons for the state and its citizens. For clarity, uniformity of policy, and economy of process, the OMA urges a statewide approach for such projects and decisions.

Currently, there are multiple avenues during the review process for interested parties to either provide input to -- or formally intervene in and participate in -- cases to ensure their positions are considered by the Board. Pancaking approvals and bogging processes with multiple layers of decision-making are costly and inefficient. There may be a better way for Ohio's wind and solar projects to be sited. However, the legislature must be careful and not replace "meaningful input" for "final decision making." A variety of alternative ideas have been promoted and some have been incorporated into the bill by the sponsors, such as including two ad hoc local members to the Power Siting Board. It would do the state and potential economic development a disservice if a solution that works for all parties is missed in a rush to pass legislation.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. I'd be pleased to try to answer any questions that you might have; please contact me at [rbrundrett@ohiomfg.com](mailto:rbrundrett@ohiomfg.com) or (614) 629-6814.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert A. Brundrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Rob Brundrett  
Managing Director, Public Policy Services