

House Public Utilities Committee
M. Kate Powers – Clermont County
SB 52 Proponent Testimony
June 23, 2021

Members of the Committee,

My name is Kate Powers and I'm from Hamersville, located in Clermont County. I would like to express my enthusiastic support for SB 52 via this written testimony.

Some background information regarding my situation: Nestlewood Solar, Case No.: 18-1546-EL-BGN, is an 80 MW Solar Electric Generating Facility in Brown County and Clermont County which began the application process at the end of 2018. The OPSB approved the project on April 16, 2020 via a virtual board meeting. Because of this approval, my property will now sit directly next to a field full of solar panels. The view from my living room window will no longer be one of a beautiful field of wildlife, flowers, and trees, but a sprawl of glass, metal, and fencing.

There were concerns raised in every single one of my written public comments posted to the Ohio Public Utilities Commission's website. I brought up valid points and indicated my concern for gaping information holes, which hadn't yet been filled in. Mr. Joseph Jordan, the former Development Director for the Nestlewood Solar Project, had to provide Supplemental Direct Testimony and answer these questions. The process was definitely hurried and pushed through as fast as possible with disregard to the public input.

The hearings, with the exception of most of the public hearings, are all held in Columbus. Myself and my neighbors weren't fortunate enough to attend these as we live 2.5 hours away. Some of them have farms they have to tend to and others have jobs in the public or private sector where time off is limited or unavailable.

Please place yourself in our shoes. How would you like to live next to a solar project? Would you purchase a home next to one? Property value studies are limited but current ones show that the closer your home is to solar fields, the more your value declines.

The OPSB is too far removed from the process to make a reasonable decision regarding these renewable energy projects. Because of this, there needs to be reasonable local public and government input.

While this bill won't help change the outcome of the Nestlewood Solar Project or others currently in progress, I respectfully ask for your urgent action on SB 52 in the hope of helping fellow Ohioans faced with the prospects of unwanted massive solar fields near their homes and properties.

Respectfully,

Kate Powers