

Testimony of Dawn Davis
Seneca County, Ohio
In support of SB-52
Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
March 9, 2021

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Schuring, ranking member Williams, members of the committee, I write as a proponent of SB-52.

Local citizens deserve the right to vote on whether or not their communities could become part of an industrial renewable energy site. Over the past decade, various small communities across Ohio, have been torn apart with the prospects of these projects; Seneca(thrice!), Allen (twice!), Van Wert(twice!), and Logan(various), Hardin(thrice!). When these companies quietly enter the area and ask that leaseholders do not speak with others about the contract, this automatically creates division. And these divisions deeply affect family, neighbors and friendships for a lifetime.

There is no other type of industrial development, permitted in Ohio, that does not have a standard safety setback to protect citizens, including children. A wind turbine blade shear in NW Ohio, years ago, threw a large piece of shard 1000 feet away from the turbine; that was not a typo, one thousand feet. Neighbors currently have zero say in whether or not their home becomes part of this massive drop zone and it will only be a matter of time before an Ohio citizen is injured or killed because of this 'trespass zoning'.

All of these projects, which consume thousands of acres in a community, should be transparent with their citizens. The developers should be required to register their presence with the affected communities, so that citizens have time to research, discuss, and consider whether or not a project is right for their community. Your duty, as our elected leaders, is not to decide the future of our local communities. Currently, with regards to industrial renewable energy projects, the State of Ohio and the developing companies have all the say. It is time that you give the citizens of our state a voice by vote on industrial wind and solar projects!!

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