

Senate Public Utilities Committee  
Senate Bill 52  
Opposition Testimony

Chairman Peterson and members of the committee, my name is Andy Groh and I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 52.

By way of background, I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation farmer. Nothing was given to us. My dad was not born a farmer. We bought land through auctions and have worked hard to own this land. My dad and I have been farming for 43 years. My son will graduate from a vocational school and plans to farm with me as well. We are both grain and livestock farmers. We raise cattle, hogs, and goats. We love to farm.

I am also a Township Trustee in Sommers Township, however my land in the solar project is in another township. I don't believe I should have the authority to tell someone—anyone—what they can do with their land. People work hard for their land and their assets. For farmers, family planning is important.

To be honest, the land in the project is on marginal ground. We are going to lease this out and then look for some better land to lease. So for people to say “prime farmland” and “don't take our farmland”. The truth is, this is my farmland--this is not my neighbors farmland. As a township trustee, I understand balancing the needs of all property owners--those in the project and other community members.

When I was approached by the company, I didn't sign right away. We waited two years, did research and read a lot. After our due diligence, we felt good moving forward. We knew it was the right thing for our family and our community.

Senate Bill 52 and House Bill 118 unfairly take away property owner rights. There is no other industry in Ohio that would be subject to this kind of treatment. These companies are building incredible projects in our communities and in many cases paying more taxes than anyone else. Let's help them succeed, not shut the door.

I respectfully request this committee not move this bill. And I am always happy to have a conversation about this matter and share more of my personal story or the experiences I have had working with solar in Ohio.