

Written Opponent Testimony of Benjamin Lachman

Senate Bill 52 and House Bill 118

Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

House Public Utilities Committee

March 20, 2021

Chairs, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members, members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee,

I am writing today to express my concern with SB 52 and HB 118. My name is Ben Lachman, and I'm an owner and managing partner at Nice Mohawk Limited, an Ohio-based technology company that works with some of the most well-known names in energy and software (Twitter, Honeywell, Harley-Davidson, etc.) as well as early-stage startups in Ohio and on the west coast. I believe it is important for Ohioans to speak out against legislation that would have a detrimental effect on Ohio's energy policy and the future of our state as a location for energy tech innovation.

These two pieces of legislation would throw up additional hurdles to investment in Ohio energy projects and effectively stop the development of new wind and solar farms in Ohio, resulting in a significant loss to our economy. Investors will not invest money in developing projects if those projects could then get cancelled at the last moment due to the whims of a small minority. Renewable energy development is supported by a broad super-majority of the population across our state and the country and comes with significant benefits to local job creation, ecological impacts, and reduced energy costs to consumers. Passage of these bills would broadcast to investors, developers, and corporate leaders that Ohio is not interested in the technologies of the future or the benefits that come with them.

Local residents have multiple avenues of participation in the siting process as it exists today. A small number of opponents should not be able to overturn Ohio Power Siting Board decisions in which all interested stakeholders have had an opportunity to be heard and their opinions considered.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony to the Committees today.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Lachman,

Managing Partner, Nice Mohawk Limited