

Written Testimony of Bob Young
Payne, OH
SB 52 and HB 118 Opponent Testimony
Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
House Public Utilities Committee
March 23, 2021

Chairmen and members of the committee, I am writing today to express my concern with SB 52 and HB 118.

My name is Bob Young, and as a landowner and a Harrison Township Trustee, I am deeply concerned about the impact that SB 52 and HB 118 would have on Ohio communities by effectively ending new development of renewable energy. The decision to host a wind or solar project on someone's property should be in the hands of those who are informed on the economic benefits of green energy, like landowners, county officials, and township trustees like myself, not in the hands of voters. By doing this, many communities would miss out and it would be a huge loss on the incredible benefits these projects can provide.

Renewable energy has provided me and my family with a new, stable form of revenue, one which for many farmers is the only guaranteed income they have. Additionally, the lane that was built to service the wind turbine has been a huge plus. We no longer have to load semis on the county road and block traffic, but instead we can load the semi on the lane and allow traffic to pass. Lanes like the one they use for the turbine on my property help farmers and ending new projects would tremendously impact my family in more ways than just revenue.

But it is not just me and my family which has benefitted from renewables, but our entire community and many communities around the state. Renewable energy means new tax

dollars to improve our township and county, allowing everyone to benefit. One of the benefits our area gets from green energy is the new money we have to improve our infrastructure. In my four years as a Harrison Township trustee, and including our plans for 2021, green energy money has helped us to pave approximately 6 miles of new asphalt on our township roads. Additionally, the money that was spent in our community during construction improved our entire economy by supporting local businesses like restaurants and bars. There is even a joke in our town that you want to get to the one gas station in town no later than 6:30 unless you want to wait in a long line, because that is when the wind project workers get to town and fill up their trucks with gas.

Having renewable energy projects in our area has been a great experience as a landowner, as a resident, and as a township trustee. If I work hard all my life and buy a farm, I should be able to decide what goes on that farm so long as its within my legal rights. The bottom line is, I don't tell my representatives what they should do with their land, so why should they tell me what I can do with mine? I strongly urge you to oppose SB 52 and HB 118.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony to the committee today.

Thank you,

Bob Young

Harrison Township Trustee