

Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Senate Bill 52
Opposition Testimony
March 23, 2021

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Schuring, and Ranking Member Williams, and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to submit opposition testimony on Senate Bill 52. My name is David Giffen.

I am a full time farmer and grow corn, soy and hay. I am a lifelong resident of Preble county—I am married with 3 kids and a grandchild--and hopefully more on the way. I love my farming roots, and I am a proud Farm Bureau and Ohio Cattlemen's Association member. In fact, I will be coming up to Columbus for the beef expo. Youngest daughter is a senior in high school and shows in the Preble County Fair, first week in August.

Middle daughter goes to Miami and my oldest is in the Ironworkers Union (local 290 out of Dayton). My children do not farm, but I want to leave a legacy for them.

When we sat down with the solar company, I sat my kids down and asked if they wanted to farm. I don't have enough ground to keep two families going. But if my son wanted to farm I would have told the solar company no way.

I know you are hearing from people saying that they don't want agricultural land to be taken out of production, but the truth is, when land is sold, there is no guarantee that their land will remain agricultural. Every day, we see more and more housing and commercial development. With solar, BY LAW, if the landowners want the property to go back to agricultural use after the useful life of the project, the bonding to decommission the project and recycle the parts is already paid for. When land is put into housing or another developed use, it will never go back to agricultural land.

This is an investment for the kids and my family. It is also an investment in my community. To get this far and have the rug pulled out from under us would set our community back and be a huge loss for landowner rights.

I ask that you please consider the rights of landowners and not have my land use be determined by a referendum. Oppose Senate Bill 52.

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