

TESTIMONY ON OHIO SB 52, March 22, 2021

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Chair and members of Ohio Senate,

I am writing to you about Senate Bill 52, now being considered, which would allow township referendums on new solar and wind projects, AFTER they have been approved by Ohio Power Siting Board, the professionals in the room.

Ohio citizens in areas close to proposed wind and solar farms ALREADY have input and representation when siting is being considered by OPSB. OPSB does well publicized outreach in areas where new wind and solar farms are proposed, holding formal hearings, where all are heard. Not long ago I testified on behalf of the proposed Emerson Creek wind project, during a OPSB zoomed hearing in the area of the proposed wind farm. Many local residents testified in favor of the project and many testified against. Ultimately OPSB ruled AGAINST Emerson Creek Wind Farm, thereby proving OPSB is not a rubber stamp, but rather takes local residents input seriously and represents them well.

A second chance for townships to reject is double jeopardy.

No other means of generation has such a referendum. No other fuel has such a referendum; in fact drilling for natural gas is mandated even in our cities, without recourse.

If this goes into effect Ohio will be a huge loser in 21st century economics. Already major corporations have skipped over Ohio because of policies disfavoring renewable, costing in the billions. More and more major corporations are pursuing carbon reduction aggressively, INCLUDING old line manufacturers. Most of them are likely to find greener fields in other states, including all of our neighboring states.

We are going through a major change in technologies, which is inevitable, to resolve the climate crisis and provide a living future for our descendents. There is huge buy in to take this on aggressively, from corporate boardrooms to Wall Street, to governments at all levels, to most of the rest of the world that will stop trading with us if we don't act aggressively on this. If you don't want China to be surpassing us in world leadership and wealth, stop with the roadblocks.

Ohio can't afford to sit this one out, clinging with false and costly sentimentality to old outmoded ways. Her citizens deserve better

Therefore please reject SB 52, don't put it on the floor for a vote. This bill is superfluous and deeply damaging to Ohio. Ohio citizens are ALREADY included in siting decisions.

Sincerely, Dave Simons, Ohio Chapter Sierra Club Energy Committee