

I strongly oppose SB 52. Here's why:

- **Anti-Economic Development**: The market for solar and wind is creating great economic opportunity in rural Ohio, allowing landowners, school districts, and political subdivisions to share in a new prosperity. The state should not erect political barriers to these benefits.
- **Anti-Consumer**: By artificially restricting supply, the bills drive up electricity costs. The legislation targets certain resources at the expense of a prudent, diversified portfolio.
- **Anti-Business**: Ohio companies across sectors are increasingly choosing to obtain fixed-cost renewables. These bills dramatically hinder their ability to exercise energy choice, manage their energy costs, and take control of their energy future.
- **Anti-Certainty**: The bills set a troublesome precedent whereby infrastructure projects are politicized, and will have a chilling effect on future projects of all kinds.
- **Retroactive**: The legislation is written to apply to projects already pending at the Siting Board or pending for a local permit. Companies have spent millions of dollars to get to this point in good faith reliance on current law. SB 52/HB 118 pulls the rug out from under them and may well violate the prohibition on *ex post facto* laws.

Real Life Example: An Ohio renewable energy project will bring \$130 million in investment, 100 construction jobs, and 10 permanent jobs to a local community. It would deliver \$50 million in landowner payments, \$55 million in local school funding revenue, and \$25 million in local tax revenue to fund police, fire, and county and township services while requiring very little in terms of local services.

It sits in a township of about 500 residents, 196 of whom voted in 2018. Under the bills, signatures from just 16 residents would subject the entire project to a local vote, and 99 “no” votes kills the project. Importantly, the “township vote” will likely never actually occur because the inherent political risk will dry up the capital needed to pursue it in the first place.

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