

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 3-19-2021

Name: James A. and Blenda James

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: 6463 Kiousville-Georgesville Rd

City: London State: Ohio Zip: 43140

Best Contact Telephone: 746-604-1598 Email: jenac53@hotmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): SB52 / HB118

Specific Issue: Rights of property owners

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

Will your testimony be written, spoken, or both? Written letter

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Let it be known that we oppose this legislation.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

James A. and Blenda James
Madison County, Ohio

March 19, 2021

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 52 / House Bill 118

My family and I are writing this letter as we were recently made aware of SB 52 / HB 118 and the changes this legislation could bring to the siting of solar projects in Ohio. We strongly oppose this legislation.

My family and I own 95 acres in Range and Oak Run Township, Madison County, Ohio. We have been stewards of this land for 28 years and farm rotational row crops. As you know, farming is a challenging business for many reasons. After being approached by Geenex Solar, we decided to join them in their solar project development efforts after learning more about the benefits of solar and the increased demand for renewable energy in our state. The proposed solar project represents a unique opportunity for us to supplement our farming income with a dependable income stream over the approximately 30-year life of the project, helping us preserve our family's land for future generations.

Geenex Solar has done a great job working with our family, neighbors, local school district, as well as county and township officials to minimize impacts from the proposed solar farm. They are proposing generous setbacks above local zoning code requirements and have offered to plant vegetative screening along major roads and near our neighbors. Actually there is no one living close to our property. Solar farms are very low impact developments as they create no noise, no smells, no traffic, no viewshed issues, no permanent land impacts, and require virtually no county services. We see this as one of the best possible uses of our land.

My family and I strongly believe that as property owners we should have the right to farm or rent our land the way we want and without requiring a vote from our neighbors. ***SB 52 and HB 118 directly infringe on my rights as a landowner.*** The idea of a public referendum to decide what we can and can't do with our land would quickly turn into a hostile situation turning neighbor against neighbor. Those who chose not to participate in the project or missed out on the opportunity should not have the right to deny this opportunity to me and my family.

We believe in property rights and will continue to vote for representatives who support pro-business policies and regulations in our state. The foundation of conservative principles that you were elected upon strongly matters to us. We are watching this issue closely and hope you will strongly oppose this bill and continue to support property rights and thoughtful economic development.

Sincerely,
James A. and Blenda James
Madison County, Ohio

