

**Written Testimony of Joe W. Recker**  
**Columbus, 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 Joe W. Recker. I am an Ohio native and life-long resident. Additionally, I own/operate a successful business alongside my father, Joe D. Recker. We have seen firsthand the unique opportunities renewable energy offers for Ohio's economy. For this reason and several others, I am submitting testimony in opposition to the bills under consideration.

Renewable energy presents a new economic opportunity for Ohio, in terms of adding jobs and investment dollars. In my direct experience, renewable energy often brings such opportunities to the rural communities that tend to feel overlooked by our political process. These same communities are suffering from decades of population decline and the loss of manufacturing-based employment.

However, if passed, this bill threatens the future of all renewable energy in Ohio. I know this is true because I am in regular discussions with Ohio manufacturers, farmers, and renewable energy providers. Companies looking to grow in Ohio need reasonable stability to make such large-scale investments. By tying project approval to a vote by township trustees or local referendum, this bill would introduce great uncertainty for all projects. This type of uncertainty is simply unpalatable for companies that can move to another state. The loss of these projects means Ohio will also lose lease payments for landowners, millions in tax revenue and countless opportunities for employment/business in the supply chain.

Additionally, we as Ohio landowners have a very defined bundle of legal property rights. This bill is a clear and obvious threat to our Right to Control. Taking private property rights away from landowners and putting them in the hands of the public is a major stray from the principles that have allowed Ohio's economy to function and flourish over the past 200+ years.

Unfortunately, I strongly suspect that support for SB 52 and HB 118 is being driven by lobby interest in sectors competing with renewable energy. Furthermore, renewable energy has a positive impact on the environment. Yet projects with clear environmental risks, such as the large-scale manure producing facilities that are common across rural Ohio, do not require such approval.

In conclusion, this regulation is shortsighted. It will certainly have an overall negative impact on Ohio's economy and take opportunity away from the rural communities that are most in need.

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

Thank you,



**Joe W. Recker**