

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 John Kyle. I am opposed to Senate Bill 52, a bill that takes away my right to use my land in a way that is best for my family and my community, and you should be as well.

Both sides of my family have farmed since statehood. I grew up on the land I still live on as a lifelong resident of Greene County. I currently plant corn and beans on a rotational basis. Solar is similar to growing corn and beans—we are using our land to harvest the sun for energy—just as we harvest the land for food and feed.

I am involved in community outreach in many ways through the Farm Bureau, the NRA, and Pheasants Forever. My interest in the community has given me the chance to share my passions, such as antique guns, with other like minded people. I am now proud to have the opportunity to give back to my community by providing the use of solar energy.

Solar is low-laying and low impact. There are no emissions and natural buffers will be placed, working with the community on what is best. The community input is an incredibly important part of the process, which was important to me when agreeing to the project.

The main reason I am in support of the use of my land for solar farming is not only the environmental and economic benefits, but the assurance that this land will stay in my family. As the father of four children who are not planning to farm, this is incredibly important to me. Solar farming is an excellent estate planning tool, and in 30 years the soil that the solar farm is constructed on will be in better shape for farming than it is currently.

Not only will building a solar farm on my land benefit me and the county directly through an increased tax base and jobs, it will also ensure that the land that has been in my family since 1803 is able to be passed down to my children in a responsible, effective manner.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony, and I hope you will consider opposing Senate Bill 52 for all of its harmful impacts on communities throughout Ohio.