

Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee  
Senate Bill 52  
Opposition Testimony  
March 23, 2021

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Schuring, and Ranking Member Williams, I am opposed to Senate Bill 52. My name is Josh Hupp and dad, Barry Hupp and I are a part of a solar project.

We milk 200 cows, and my wife and I started the dairy back in 2003. We both grew up on crop farms, and dairy farming was in my blood. My dad milked and my mom grew up on a dairy. I have three kids in the Northridge Local Schools, where I went and my mom just retired from the schools. This project will mean so much for the schools.

I have included a recent news story from the Newark Advocate that highlights the significant revenues to Northridge Schools. Our property could never have generated this type of revenue under CAUV.

We are full-time dairy farmers, and even have a few people who help on the farm. We will continue to farm, even after the solar is producing. It is just who we are. Dad has been farming since 1974 and will continue to farm. I would never sign up every acre, but I am so happy to give dad something to help him retire. While we love farming, it is hard work and people deserve the opportunity to retire.

We really needed another source of income to diversify the farm income. The dairy business is always tough and has been hard the past couple of years.

I know you are hearing this bill because some people are upset. I shouldn't have to tell my personal story to be able to do what is best for my family, but if it helps create better policy, I am willing to do it. Bottom line, I should be able to do what I want with my land. My family and I have sacrificed a lot to be doing what we are doing.

The anti-agriculture sediment just keeps coming. Sometimes it feels like we will never be able to please non-farmers who look down on what we try to do with our land and farm. If they weren't happy about solar, it would be coming after me as a livestock farmer. What else will they take from us?

I encourage every member of this committee to listen to their farmers and better understand how we manage our land and estate planning. We are active members of our community and just want to be understood, respected and protected.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my personal story and I ask you to please not support Senate Bill 52.