

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 Laura Apgar, and I am speaking today in opposition to Senate Bill 52, a bill that would undermine what is best for my family and my community.

My grandpa bought the 108 acre farm I own in 1942 in Greene County, and I inherited it from my father. Currently, my cousins farm the land with corn and beans on a rotational basis. I was not originally on board with solar in Ohio communities, but after learning about the benefits I decided it was best for not only me but also the community.

As an avid traveller, solar began to make sense when I recognized it is being developed in every state and country. Intuitively, solar makes sense as a source of energy and it is time for it to be utilized in Ohio on a major scale.

Solar farming allows Ohio farmers and landowners to produce clean, renewable energy using their land, diversifying their income, and providing for their community. In addition to this, the current process for siting utility-scale solar is rigorous and lengthy. It involves economic, environmental, and cultural studies before any steps towards solar farming can be made.

I want to be able to preserve my land and legacy for my kids, presumably a shared goal for many. Solar farming is the most effective way I can contribute to the community and ensure this will be able to happen. I am proud to be a part of providing energy for my community. Regardless of who purchases the energy capacity—the energy produced on my farm will be supplied into the transmission system and will be used locally.

This is my land to decide what I want to do with, and Senate Bill 52 would give others veto power over what I do on my private property. I pay the property taxes and insurances on this land. Ohio law has afforded me this opportunity and Senate Bill 52 will pull the rug out from under us.

Thank you for taking my words into consideration and hope this committee opposes Senate Bill 52 and House Bill 118.