

LUKAS BENJAMIN DARLING  
117 Regent Street, Campbell, Ohio 44405

March 21, 2021

To the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee:

I am writing you today in opposition to Senate Bill 52.

SB 52 would violate the rights of landowners, and would establish a dangerous precedent in the siting of buildings and facilities related to vital infrastructure. By voting against this bill, the Ohio General Assembly would protect our state's citizens and economy from government overreach, while ensuring that we have the opportunity to produce our own energy in the future.

Clean energy, including wind and solar farms, that would benefit all users, should not be subject to referendum. Such action would establish an unnecessary hardship on property owners for making improvements that would benefit all.

The right to do what one sees fit with one's own property is an inalienable right, granted not only by the Creator but also protected by the Constitution. This bill would put those rights on the ballot for others to dictate how the landowner uses their own property. Not only does this infringe on the liberty of the landowners, but it also hampers their ability to do what is best for their families.

From a business perspective, this bill establishes a dangerous precedent. Calls to put even more landowner rights on the ballot have already been heard in response to this bill. If we start with wind turbines and solar panels, where exactly does it end? Should neighbors get to deny a farmer's plans to build a hog or chicken farm, casting aside any agricultural protections? This would decimate investment in Ohio, killing growth and pushing our businesses and citizens to move where there are fewer restrictions and more opportunities.

Both the intended and unintended consequences of this bill will harm Ohioans. From infringing upon the property rights of landowners to harming our economy, to making us less competitive, this bill will be a net loss for our state.

I strongly urge you to vote against Senate Bill 52.

Best Regards,

Lukas Darling