

Opposition Testimony
Senate Bill 52 and House Bill 118
March 23, 2021
Matt Pitstick

Members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for your consideration. My name is Matt Pitstick and I am a lifelong resident of Greene County. I would like to share my concerns and opposition to House Bill 118 and Senate Bill 52.

I am a 3rd generation farmer and proud of the work we do. I am one of six kids and now have a wonderful family of my own. I am a lifelong Republican, NRA, Farm Bureau, and Cattlemen's Association member.

I farm 600 acres of corn and beans and 200 for hay and straw. I do specialty hay and straw for horses. Some land I own, and some I lease. I have an older brother who helps me.

I also have 60 head of beef cattle. This is a 24-7 operation. Growing up, our parents never took a vacation until I was in high school. Our family has worked really hard for generations. We took risks and made sacrifices to have the land and operation we have today.

When I was first approached by the solar company, I was on the fence for a while because I just didn't know much about solar. I had concerns about drain tiles and weeds. But after some time and research, I knew this was the right decision for my farm and the land. If we decide we want to farm after the system has met its useful life, it will produce better after the system is removed. The soil will be better.

I've lived 60 years on the farm, and I am not about to do anything that will ruin what we have created. I am interested in adding value to our operation.

Additionally, the project will be beneficial to the schools and local services. I just got my tax bill and half goes to schools. Let's give taxpayers a break. These solar companies are proving to be some of the largest tax payers in the community. The benefits outweigh any foreseen concerns.

Thank you for your time and I am always happy to discuss further if needed.

Thank you,

Matt Pitstick