

I write in opposition to Senate Bill 52.

A large-scale solar farm is planned near me here in Allen County and the additional uncertainty that Senate Bill 52 will add to the permitting process endangers the entire project and other, similar projects around the state. As this legislation applies only to wind and solar projects, one cannot escape the feeling that these industries are being singled out for government suppression. Why are other forms of energy generation not included?

The utility-scale farm planned for Allen County will be good for our community in so many ways: private property owners will exercise their right to choose what to do with their land, taxpayers will have an increase in local government revenues of over \$2,500,000 annually, the pollutant load on the area watershed will be lowered by having fewer acres farmed, farmers will have additional options for making money from their land, flooding risks are likely to be lowered by reducing the number of acres under tillage; electricity will be flowing to the power grid from our own area, making our electric service less prone to disruption; our dependence on fossil fuels will be lowered, increasing national security and producing energy without releasing carbon.

Putting the solar and wind industries under the heel of the “not-in-my-backyard” groups while not subjecting other generating industries to the same requirements anchors Ohio to its twentieth-century past. Why? Solar panels and racking systems are produced right here in Ohio. We have available labor, land suited for the purpose, and communities, especially ones largely left out of recent economic gains, poised to share in a new prosperity. The State should not erect political barriers to these benefits.

I own an electric vehicle. More and more people will be buying them and, consequently, more electrical generating capacity will be required. Restrictions, unnecessarily imposed, coupled with rising demand will raise prices. Rising prices for electricity will restrict economic growth. And for what? To appease folks who think turbines are unsightly?

It is further troublesome that this bill is retroactive. Isn't there a provision against *ex post facto* laws in Ohio?

The permitting process for these projects is already difficult. The Ohio Power Siting Board was created to make the process adjudicatory and based upon evidence. The last thing in the world that makes sense now is to turn this into a political process.

Respectfully yours,

Michael Wildermuth  
Shawnee Township, Allen County, Ohio