

3/20/21

To: Ohio House of Representatives

From: Nancy Flinchbaugh, Springfield Ohio nancy.flinchbaugh@gmail.com

Re: Testimony re Senate Bill 52

I am writing to protest proposed Senate Bill 52.

As a resident of Ohio, I continue to be disturbed and appalled at the actions of the Ohio Legislature trying to roll back progress in moving us into the 21st century where increasing carbon emissions threaten life on our planet. I know that it is fueled by money in the pockets of legislators from lobbyists, but I ask for you to let your conscience be your guide instead of your pocketbooks, if that is possible. After the huge fiasco with House Bill 6, I thought perhaps you would turn the corner and fall on your knees in repentance, but instead forces are pushing ahead to do more of the same.

Your actions make no sense in the context of our reality. Alternative energy will fuel our economy in positive ways. Paying homage to the fossil fuel does not stimulate the economy, but maintains a status quo that will leading us more quickly to environmental destruction.

You have already made it very difficult for Ohioans to take positive steps for the future with alternative energy. This bill will take away our free choice to move in this direction and use our private property to help the future of the planet. You also are dampening the economic opportunities for Ohioans by bowing to huge energy conglomerates, instead of letting us take power for our own energy. This runs against the free market system.

Why are you restricting wind and solar? Why do you want to control the market? Who are you to slow our progress into a sustainable future?

Your lack of vision is leading Ohio behind in the dust as many other states and corporations are moving forward with vision to address our changing climate with alternative energy economic development. You place us at a disadvantage.

Your retroactive legislation is also reaching back and attacking business plans made in the past with a reach to the future. This is extremely unfair to those in the midst of solar and wind projects with resources committed. It's bad for business.

As I consider my life in retirement, I fear I must leave Ohio in order to live in a place that values life on the planet and is forward thinking, stimulating the economy with solar and wind projects. I have been an Ohioan most of my life and it grieves my soul that we are the sixth largest carbon emitter. We can do better than this.

Your actions are delaying any real progress in combating climate change and transitioning to cleaner, renewable energy. You can do better than this.