

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee,

Senate Bill 52:

- singles out solar and wind specifically, allowing local additional referenda on these two most important renewable sources alone.
- will discourage investment in Ohio, since wind and solar providers will not be able to count on a stable regulatory environment. This will cost Ohio millions of dollars in economic investment and thousands of clean, safe, and well-paid jobs.
- stymies much-needed energy growth in Ohio. Not to mention the fact that this bill would allow referenda that would prolong the need for climate-threatening industries like oil, gas and yes, nuclear power that uses large amounts of carbon energy in getting its fuel and in attempting to deal with its forever-deadly radioactive waste.
- would drive up electricity costs by cutting down on supply.

The Ohio legislature is picking and choosing what energy sources can and cannot be vetoed at the local level. For instance, the legislature also wants to stop local entities from banning fracking in their jurisdictions.

Demand for renewables is overwhelmingly strong. Not only that, they are the cheaper, safer, less polluting energy of the future.

SB 52's undercutting of renewables is made worse by the fact that is retroactive to projects already at the Power Siting Board.

In the past, you have heard testimony from Van Wert and Paulding Counties on how much the local jurisdictions and the farmers depend on the revenues of the wind development there. Once projects are on the ground, they are overwhelmingly championed by the local residents and jurisdictions.

The Ohio legislature needs to develop an energy plan. Once we heard legislators talk about "all of the above," which is actually not a plan. SB 52 would be "all of the above except for wind and solar." That is a step backward, not forward.

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