

Written Testimony for Senate Bill 52 and House Bill 118  
Ohio House Public Utilities Committee  
Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee  
March 23, 2021

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To Members of the Committee:

My name is Richard Spracklen and my wife Patty and I have four kids, seven grandkids, and 16 great grand kids. And, thankfully, most of them live pretty close to me.

Our family is now on the 6<sup>th</sup> generation farming in Ohio and we farm grain and hogs and we use to have sheep, cattle and hogs. I was a 4-H advisor for many years and am former president of the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association. At one point I received the outstanding Young Farmer in Greene County award and have received awards from the Greene County Farm Bureau for our work in agriculture.

I still work full time on the farm, but now that I am 86 years old, thankfully I am not digging ditches anymore. While I am still out there, my grandkids now farm.

We are working with Vesper Energy, in the Kingwood Solar project. They have a good team and they are experienced. We feel confident they will build a nice solar farm—which we will continue to farm even after the panels are installed.

Not all the land will be in solar. We have some in land preservation, some in grain—and now we will have some in solar.

Everybody should be able to do what they want on their own land. I have heard that some who object to me putting my land into solar, have themselves turned their land into houses. Just not sure how people draw the line on what they think is right or wrong. And how is it that someone should have a vote on what I do with my land? Solar farming is quiet, and after construction, no trucks, no odor, etc.

We should have control of our own land. We have worked hard for our land, and now have an opportunity to have a commodity that works for us. It is going to be a huge win for schools and the county. I can't see why anyone would want to stop this. Please oppose Senate Bill 52 and House Bill 118.