

Members of the Ohio Senate Energy Committee,

As a citizen of Ohio, I oppose the passage of Senate Bill 52 because the provisions of the bill will make it almost impossible for new Renewable Energy Projects to be developed in Ohio. This bill singles out renewable energy projects for additional layers of regulation and approval that will not apply to any other form of energy development. This is clearly an attempt by the bill's authors to subsidize fossil fuel and nuclear energy projects at the expense of less polluting and safer forms of energy development. The evidence is clear that fossil fuel and nuclear energy are both more dangerous and vastly more expensive forms of energy creation than renewable sources of energy. We cannot afford this kind of back room politics to prop up dying energy industries by making it harder for our state to develop more efficient and safer forms of energy.

We have a responsibility to future generations to make this transition from fossil fuel energy to safer and more efficient renewable energy as simple as possible. By creating procedural and bureaucratic roadblocks to renewable energy projects we are making Ohio less competitive and we are harming future generations of Ohians with increased pollution and long term environmental damage that our children and grandchildren will have to clean up. When the HB 6 scandal became public knowledge, I thought we were finally turning a corner on corrupt back room deals to save the fossil and nuclear energy industries. The movement behind and creation of SB 52 clearly indicates that the fossil fuel lobby still has a corrupt hold on our elected public officials. If SB 52 passes it will be a very sad statement about the state of Ohio's politics and politicians. I find it extremely frustrating that my elected state leaders still think that corruption of this sort is the only way to advance legislation in our state.

I urge you all to reconsider your positions on how Ohio's future energy needs will be met. We cannot afford to pass legislation that passes out subsidies in the form of unfair competition to industries that have proven themselves to not be viable solutions for the short term or long term best interests of our state.

Sincerely,

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