

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

Sub. SB 52

Andrew Hange (Lucas County)

May 17, 2021

Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Committee. My name is Andrew Hange and I am a current resident of Northwest Ohio, whose family owns farmland in Defiance County. I am submitting my written testimony in support of Sub. Senate Bill 52. Below I share some of my reasons for this support.

I am supporting Sub. Senate Bill 52 because townships should be given the authority to decide whether or not to support wind/solar projects OR to not have a district at all. I believe township trustees best know the needs of a given community and how a given project could affect its residents either positively or negatively. My former community, and Northwest Ohio, is at risk of being negatively impacted by a proposed 700 acre solar development project. This is one of two projects proposed in the area. The proposed project proposed by 7X Energy, of Austin, Texas, will be directly across from the family farm my mom grew up on, and my brother and uncle currently operate, which has been owned for nearly a century. This would entirely change the landscape of a beloved community in which members of my family live and farms. Beyond my family, think of all the other area residents and stakeholders, who I can be certain most would not approve of such a project, that this proposed project would negatively affect. The thought of this proposed project without the appropriate

involvement and/or decision making opportunities of local government and their residents is asinine.

I am asking that land use control be given back to the local government, where it belongs. From my research, the effects of solar energy can be detrimental in many ways and I do not want to see Defiance County residents, nor my family, become a part of an experiment to which the effects are not yet known. From what I have also researched, solar fields do not even improve local electrical rates. The only benefit of these solar fields would be to this greedy company. How many times have Ohioans been burnt by this same concept; multi-million dollar companies and lobbyists playing property owners into potentially lucrative payouts with false promises that don't materialize? Let's not make the same mistake and support appropriate local government involvement. Please do what is RIGHT and pass Sub. Bill 52 so that our local elected officials/township trustees can best determine future projects for our communities. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to your support of Sub. Bill 52.