

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

Sub. SB 52

Donald Hange (Defiance County)

May 19, 2021

Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and

members of the Committee. My name is Donald Hange and I reside and own farmland in Defiance County. I am submitting my written testimony in support of Sub. Senate Bill 52 and would like to share my reasons why I support the passage of this bill.

I am supporting Sub. Senate Bill 52 because townships should be allowed to authorize wind or solar or both or they should be allowed to decide not to have a district at all. Township trustees best know the community and how a project would affect their residents and the community either positively or negatively. Currently, our community is at risk of being negatively affected by a proposed 700 acre solar development. It is one of two projects of this grandeur being proposed in our county. This particular project being proposed by a company called 7X Energy out of Texas will be directly across from my family's nearly century-old family-owned farm.

Please bring land use control back to the local government! We don't need to be an experiment!! No solar field has been in use 30 years, let alone 35-40, to even know what outcome there is for its afterlife. Is there an example of one that has been successfully decommissioned, deconstructed and actually reverted (or returned) back to agricultural land? Not that I am aware!!!! In other words, we cannot determine the long term effects of such a project. The projects are too early in their stages of development!!

We don't even know if the companies will keep their tax base intact. Isn't there the possibility they would lobby to decrease their taxes which would impact their promised payments? And what the local project company suggested would be paid to the school was \$10,000,000. By my calculation, \$240,000/year x 30 years = \$7,200,000. Even at 40 years, the total number would be \$9,600,000..... still short of the proposed \$10 million!!!! In 40 years, \$240,000 would be a drop in the bucket for a school system anyway!!! We can't even trust their information.

Why should a couple of greedy landowners be bought out to totally change the landscape of hundreds or thousands of acres of farm land? Why should they be able to change the landscape of the close neighbors without some type of vote or local government determination?

It is my understanding that construction of a local a solar field wouldn't even impact the local customers' electrical rates or savings!! And as it is now, our school district could have 2 solar farms within 3 miles!! What an abomination!!

,Another drawback is most of the panels are made in China with slave labor. Who could trust what the Chinese use to manufacture them, or that they are honest about the make-up of the panels? And when they go to decommission the farms, how will they deconstruct the farm? Who will recycle the panels? Who will want the materials in the panel? I have heard that there is not much market for the recycled materials and thus fewer recyclers. Why, if the farms are so great, don't they revitalize them and extend their life for another 30-40 years!? Or will there be something better that comes along to save energy? Will they just be abandoned skeletons left on our formerly beautiful natural horizon? And in the construction I

am sure there will be big equipment moving in and out compacting the soil. That will not bode well to put the acres back to agriculture! I fear the big construction equipment will destroy our local chip/seal road surfaces, too. Will bee- loving foliage be planted or will it just be unsightly weeds that grow under the panels. So much for the flora and fauna in the solar farm acres!

What is to say that these companies will remain in business – and then what happens to the solar farm? If it goes bankrupt, who has responsibility for removing infrastructure/how will the infrastructure be removed? Or will it even be removed? Personally I prefer to drive down the highway with fields of corn or soybeans on either side, rather than a tunnel of unsightly solar panels!!

Please pass Sub. Bill 52 so that our local elected officials/township trustees can best determine future projects for our communities. Thank you very much for your support.