

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

Sub. SB 52

Hector Sanchez (Defiance County)

May 19, 2021

Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Committee. My name is Hector Sanchez and I reside and work from home 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 whole-heartedly support Sub. Senate Bill 52 because I firmly believe that the local elected officials, like our township trustees, are better able to represent our communities interest on whether or not solar and wind renewable developers can come into our communities. Our local elected officials should be allowed to determine where, if any where at all, they are allowed to develop their projects. The local officials know the community and will see first-hand how a project would affect the residents.

We are at risk of being negatively affected by a proposed 700-acre solar development and it is one of two projects currently being proposed in our county, all within miles of each other. This particular project being proposed by a company called 7X Energy out of Texas will be directly across the street from my home. My family and I moved to the area to get away from the cities and larger towns. We enjoy the open farmland where are children are learning to care for their horses and other farm animals. Relocating is simply not an option for us. We are very concerned with this proposed project and the detriment it will cause the agriculturally rich community we live in. We are concerned that this project, which is supposed to be eco-friendly, will have a significant environmental impact on our community. We already experience natural

water drainage issues on our property that leads to flooding when there are heavy rains and those water drainage issues will be exasperated from the run-off of a massive solar field. The wildlife that we do have here will be impacted by the hundreds of acres that will be closed off to them. We are a rural community with older roads that will be further damaged in the construction process. This project will literally be in our back yards and directly across from many residences. I am a disabled veteran and cannot continue to pick-up and move, my wife is currently being screened for a lung transplant, our children are thriving but this project does nothing but ruin the healthy environment we were looking for when we moved out here. We are concerned for the impact that this industrial facility will expose us to on a daily basis as we have enough medical issues in my family. The EMF exposure alone that will be produced has been linked to cancer, autism and mental health issues. We, the local community, should be able to say if and where these developers can bring these projects. Our townships should be able to allow or deny these developers just like any other construction, business, etc. Please pass Sub. SB 52 and bring land use control back to the Townships because we can best regulate what is good and right for our communities. Thank You.