

## **PROPONENT TESTIMONY**

Sub. SB 52

Holly Wendling (Defiance County)

May 19, 2021

Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and

members of the Committee. My name is Holly Wendling and I reside and farm 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 I firmly believe that the local elected officials, like our township trustees, should be able to best represent our community. The local officials know the community and how a project would affect the residents and community. Ohio is currently one of the most unregulated states in this area. That is why we are being bombarded by solar projects as the control is now at the state level who have no idea what is happening at the local level.

In order to build a house on farm land, a person must apply to get agriculture land rezoned for residential purposes which is done by the local trustees. This is appropriate overseeing of by LOCAL government. Why would a company be able to come into an area and use 700 acres of agriculture land for a different purpose without having to go through the same rezoning process? Why would there not be local control?

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. This company has been in the area for two years working to get landowners to

lease. Yet no one knows about the project because of “no disclosure” policy and predatory technics this the company uses. We were approached to lease land and declined as we do not feel this is best for our community.

This project would not only severely impact residents, but also limit residential growth, and economic growth. It will have an impact on wetlands and our wild life. If this project is developed there will be solar panels for multiple miles on three sides of the village. How does a community survive this?

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.