

## **PROPONENT TESTIMONY**

Sub. SB 52

Jeffrey Hange (Defiance County)

May 19, 2021

Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and

members of the Committee. My name is Jeffrey Hange 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 to say whether or not solar and wind renewable developers can come into our communities and if so, where they are allowed to develop their projects. Ohio is currently one of the most unregulated states in this area. The local officials best know the community and how a project would affect either positively or negatively the residents and community.

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, which myself and my Uncle now farm. My family and I live on the original acreage purchased by my great grandfather in 1924 as they moved here from Illinois for better agricultural opportunity. We cannot and will not move from our home. We are very concerned with this proposed project. We are concerned for the agriculturally rich community in which we live. We are concerned for the water drainage issues we will

experience from the run-off of a massive solar field as we have natural water drainage that borders our property and already deal with drainage and flooding issues when there are heavy rains. We are concerned for the wildlife that lives here. We are concerned that our chip and sealed township roads will be damaged in the construction process, as we are a rural community. This project is located closely to many residences. We are concerned for the health and well being of our family, especially our two-year old daughter and future children we hope to have. We are concerned for the EMF that we will be exposed to on a daily basis as exposure to EMF 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.