

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

Sub. SB 52

John Newland (Allen County)

May 19, 2021

Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Committee. My name is John Newland and I reside in Allen County. I support Sub. Senate Bill 52 and would like to share my reasons why I support the passage of this bill.

I am in support of Sub. SB52 and would like to address my concerns that without the passage of this bill a state agency (Ohio Power Sitting Board) will override the will of the citizens, through their duly elected Township Trustees. I believe the citizens, of the townships where solar panels and wind projects plan to locate, should have the ability to decide if these developments are good and/or in the best interest of our community, not by unelected staff at the OPSB or by decade's old misguided emergency legislation.

I have concerns for the local citizens not having a say in the restructuring of the areas we reside and call home. Many families have lived in their communities for generations. Should they not have a voice in the decision if the economic benefits are greater than the lost property values of their communities by going from agriculture zoning to industrial and against the local government's resolutions?

Please consider these concerns when voting on passage of Sub. Senate Bill 52.

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