

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

Sub. SB 52

Ann Fisher (Auglaize County – Logan Township)

May 19, 2021

Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Committee.

My name is ANN FISHER residing in Auglaize County with my husband CHRISTOPHER FISHER. We are in support of the revised sub SB52. My husband and I have lived in Ohio our entire lives and at our residence for 34 years.

I am not writing this testimonial on our own behalf although we are residents adversely impacted surrounded on 4 sides by solar panels as we were looking forward to our golden years in the bucolic setting we had built. And surely we're not happy to hear of this and other **industrial scale solar/wind power plants** storming the countryside of Ohio. We understood that there were possibilities over the years that things could be built on land surrounding us and that was the right of the land owned by those landowners that might block our bucolic view or be annoying. This isn't just an annoyance, a housing development, a pole barn, a chicken coop, a pig farm, or in our case actually the leasing landowner himself has let his house become a vacant dump next door, not even living in the area.

This is NOT a "not in my backyard" testimony. My testimony IS NOT about us. This is about the effect of 1,000s to 10,000s of acres turned into **Industrial Scale Solar/Wind Power Plants** a footprint for an intermittent at best energy source for public utility use, like no other, that is impacting thousands of township residents without a local voice. We are indeed just 1 of the 1000s of affected residents in and near proposed footprints that solar/wind encompass, 2,500 acres of land, 40+ miles of fencing with 3/4 million glass aluminum cadmium lead solar panels surrounding some residences on all 4 sides within only 300 feet from the CENTER OF THEIR HOMES NOT FROM THE PROPERTY LINE. With 22+ miles of access roadways, 95 inverters the size of semi-trucks, gravel roadways impacting the soil for 35 – 40 years to ever be returned to its natural state; and a laundry list of other issues that will come with that just feet away from our homes.

Cases in point. I implore you to understand there are quite a number of these stories - a young 30+ couple with a 2-year-old. They purchased their "dream" home two years ago. They even asked the landowner who leased the land surrounding them if he planned to develop. He said no – it was in his trust not to develop. And the couple bought their 7 acre "dream" home to raise their 2-year-old son, but now to have the safety of his family at question. Being completely engulfed on all 4 sides. Another 30+ couple with a similar story surrounded on 3 sides and an access road 150 feet from their driveway that could be a danger to their 2-year-old girl playing in the yard. In my research I have heard a myriad of stories just like this. And I wanted to cry harder for them than for me because my husband and I were them 34 years ago looking forward to our future country dream home. We had it.

I don't think any of us are against the research for a cleaner better earth and for the benefit of the economics for Ohio. However, it CANNOT be at the detriment of its Ohioans. If I read one more headline that says that we are ANTI-SOLAR or NIMBY – I'm going to scream. Never in a million years, did I think I would be in the middle of Climate Wars and public policy. Understand that days into our notification well into a year of the solar industrial plant already being planned with testing and boring poles set in the fields, we started inquiring and built a large portion of our currently approaching 900 signatures on a petition against this encroachment. So, there must be something to it that we have so many signatures against it, if it were so good for our township? We of course don't have the buying power of a multi-billion-dollar foreign entity. And don't have a lot of pull with an entity in Columbus deciding our fate.

Self-sustaining renewable solar/wind has its place, for their own municipalities such as the solar fields in Wapak and Minster only taking up a couple hundred-acre swaths, for the sustenance of their own industry with the windmills for Whirlpool/Ball Plant in Findlay or Honda in Lakeview, or on homes, on industrial rooftops, on brown lands. And I just read recently, Chase putting it on their own rooftops, right here in Columbus. That is progress, that is technology at its finest, and that is research for the betterment of society without ripping the rug from underneath those that have no say.

2,500 – 5,000 – 10,000 acres of natural resources at a clip? Where does it stop? Why so fast? I won't use this to outlay all the statistics. Our group has performed vigorous efforts of study and painstaking unbiased review of the "impact" this has and will continue to do so.

When this started and we got the notice, I thought we were the only ones impacted. I thought I could probably be ok with something like a Honda of Anna an industry that sits on 500 acres of land across from us because it will have employed 2800 people in 30 years. And that land and its placement will have been zoned and voted on by the

township. But when I found out it was 2,500 acres, and it would only employ 5 people, and a committee in Columbus would say so, and we had no voice, I was appalled. So, understand that I am not here for just me – I am here for that 30-year-old with the 2-year-old son and any future young residents who want to move to this area. They will not have a dream home to buy in the future with thousands of acres covered in glass in this area. If Shawnee Schools thinks it will attract new residents, they won't have any to go to a "new school". ***So, I ask of you. Do you think it is fair that local townships have no voice. The local townships have the best interest of their communities both economically, ecologically, and environmentally.***

What is the difference if it was a Nuclear Plant or a Natural Gas Plant? The footprint of **industrial solar/wind power plants** on land use impacts the local communities at a rate not seen by other forms of energy. Ohio needs to make sure our rural communities are not left with the risk.

Isn't it good for the schools? Is it? Not only do just the developers and landowner leasing reap the profits, disproportionate revenue the schools will make over the years may just decrease. If that is what the township wants, then that is what this bill affords them.

Isn't it good for business? Whose business? The foreign developer or private venture monolithic capitalist? No long-term employment locally. No viable local corporate business partner. This will only employ 5 permanent jobs. Again, does the revenue far outweigh what your constituents will suffer? This legislation is about giving the township the ability which is the only right thing to do since **Industrial Scale Solar/Wind Power Plants** transform a huge footprint and communities in a monumental way.

The language in this bill is fair and just giving townships who wish to have the best of both scenarios by granting them the right to establish overlay districts. This bill provides a fair process for renewable energy ability to identify parts of Ohio who are willing to welcome such investment. The public interest, convenience and necessity of such **industrial plants** should first take into account the public immediately surrounding such **industrial plants** and who can be adversely affected by such **industrial plants**. It is the opinion of these Ohioans that should carry significant weight in the process as they know best how this might impact their community. Residents and businesses, other than **wind/solar** in this case, have had to comply with local zoning. This creates an unfair advantage for **wind/solar** that will consume thousands of acres of land, create minimal full time employment opportunities for local residents, while enjoying large tax credits.

We are tired of seeing our health and welfare, property values and pursuit of happiness trampled on. We are tired of those foreign entities who have received special privileges that have not been given to all other residents and businesses of an Ohio township. Residents in Ohio wish to be able to plan for their future based on knowing township land use policies and without the fear of **wind/solar industrial plants** negating everything they worked hard to achieve. Where now will that young family move? Will their next 7 acres be surrounded by 4 sides of ¼ million solar glass panels or 600 feet high wind turbines. They will not know what township to move into.

I tried to not make this about me, but it is about us, what about us? This is also about you. Why does it always have to be about money? Do the right thing. I humbly request the efficient passage of this legislation and thank you for your time.