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Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Senate Bill 52
Opponent Testimony
May 19, 2021

Chair McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams, and Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee,

My name is Cheryl Day, Executive Vice President of the Ohio Pork Council. On behalf of the Ohio Pork Council's 2,500 members, I write to the committee to express the Council's opposition to Senate Bill 52. As currently proposed, S.B. 52 represents a government intrusion and violation of one of our nation's most fundamental rights – personal property rights.

Ohio's pork farmers strongly support personal property rights. We understand and can appreciate the concerns of neighbors regarding impacts to their own properties caused by the development of wind or solar projects; however, Ohio's Power Siting Board is equipped to address those concerns. We could support amendments to the Power Siting Board process that improves notice and provides for additional input, but S.B. 52 as currently constituted goes too far.

Pork farmers faced many difficulties from the pandemic and enacting S.B. 52 will reduce, if not end entirely, the possibility of utilizing an emerging steady income source that may help Ohio's agricultural community emerge stronger from the pandemic. Many farmers, including pork farmers, often lease portions of their land to solar and wind developers, using the lease payments to supplement income, which helps farmers withstand the year-to-year turbulence in the agricultural commodity markets. The stable incomes enable farmers to better plan for equipment purchases, expansion of operations, and keep their land in agricultural use, as opposed to leasing land to a commercial or residential developer.

Thank you for all you do to support Ohio's agricultural community. As currently proposed, the Ohio Pork Council opposes S.B. 52 and asks the legislature to explore other possible reforms to the Power Siting Board process that preserves Ohioans personal property rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Day".

Executive Vice President